

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

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**ON THE**

**2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY  
OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY  
AND INNOVATION**

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# **REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE 2018 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and Standing Order 138 delivered the Budget Statement and Financial Policy for the year ending 2018 to Parliament on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Article 103 (3) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and Standing Orders 140 (4) and 185 referred the budget estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report.

## **2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Committee on Environment, Science and Technology met with officials of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to deliberate on the 2018 budget estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Committee is grateful to the following persons who in diverse ways assisted the Committee during the interrogation of the 2018 budget estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation:

1. The Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Kwaku Frimpong-Boateng,
2. The Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Madam Patricia Appiagyei
3. The Chief Director, Madam Salimata Abdul-Salam
4. Directors and officials of the following departments and agencies:
  - a. Ministry Headquarters
  - b. Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

- c. Environmental Protection Agency
- d. National Council for Scientific & Industrial Research
- e. Land Use & Spatial Planning Authority
- f. National Biosafety Authority
- g. Nuclear Regulatory Authority
- I. Ministry of Finance

### 3.0 **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The following documents were referenced by the Committee during deliberations on the 2018 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation:

1. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
2. The Standing Orders of Parliament of Ghana
3. The 2017 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana
4. The 2017 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
4. The 2018 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana.
6. The 2018 Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

### 4.0 **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation seeks to ensure accelerated socio-economic development of the nation through the formulation of sound policies and regulatory framework to promote the use of appropriate environmentally friendly science and technological practices.

#### 4.1 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry performs the following core functions:

- ❖ 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 co-ordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of activities of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation while fulfilling national benefits-sharing commitments
- ❖ Set out the parameters required for programme 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 co-ordinate 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 Act 490, with the EPA as the main implementing agency and MESTI playing an oversight, co-ordination and facilitating role.

## 4.2 STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

The strategic policy objectives of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2018 fiscal year are to:

- ❖ Enhance the application of science, technology and innovation
- ❖ Protect existing forest reserves
- ❖ Reduce environmental pollution
- ❖ Combat deforestation, desertification and soil erosion
- ❖ Enhance climate change resilience
- ❖ Reduce Greenhouse gases
- ❖ Mainstream science , technology and innovation in all socio-economic activities
- ❖ Promote a sustainable, spatially integrated balance and orderly development of human settlements
- ❖ Enhance capacity of policy formulation and coordination

## 5.0 REVIEW OF THE 2017 PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIONS

### 5.1 ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR 2017

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation was allocated an amount of **Three Hundred and Forty Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand, One Hundred and Forty Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢349,152,142)** for activities earmarked for the 2017 fiscal year. Out of the amount allocated **GH¢194,965,976** was from GOG, **GH¢56,688,121** from IGF and **GH¢97,498,045** from Development Partners. The breakdown of the allocation is as follows:

**Table 1: ALLOCATION FOR 2017 – FUNDING SOURCES**

|                             | <b>GOG</b>         | <b>DONOR</b>      | <b>IGF</b>        | <b>TOTAL</b>       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>WAGES AND SALARIES</b>   | 177,765,586        | -                 | 11,066,514        | <b>188,832,100</b> |
| <b>GOODS &amp; SERVICES</b> | 11,200,390         | 46,351,921        | 28,517,535        | <b>86,069,846</b>  |
| <b>CAPEX</b>                | 6,000,000          | 51,146,124        | 17,104,072        | <b>74,250,196</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>194,965,976</b> | <b>97,498,045</b> | <b>56,688,121</b> | <b>349,152,142</b> |

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2017 fiscal year

**Table 2: 2017 BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROGRAMME ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS**

| <b>Budget Programme/ Economic Classification</b> | <b>Wages &amp; Salaries</b> | <b>Good Services &amp;</b> | <b>CAPEX</b>      | <b>TOTAL</b>       |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Management &amp; Administration</b>           | 1,448,356                   | 50,832,077                 | 54,146,124        | <b>106,426,557</b> |
| <b>Research &amp; Development</b>                | 163,689,973                 | 11,478,076                 | 5,007,391         | <b>180,175,440</b> |
| <b>Environmental Programme &amp; Development</b> | 11,066,514                  | 20,959,596                 | 14,196,681        | <b>46,222,791</b>  |
| <b>Spatial Planning</b>                          | 12,548,262                  | 1,680,059                  | 600,000           | <b>14,828,321</b>  |
| <b>Biosafety</b>                                 | <b>78,995</b>               | <b>1,120,039</b>           | <b>300,000</b>    | <b>1,499,034</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>188,832,100</b>          | <b>86,069,847</b>          | <b>74,250,196</b> | <b>349,152,142</b> |

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2017 fiscal year

## **6.0 PROJECTED PROGRAMMES FOR 2017**

In the 2017 fiscal year, the agencies under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation were committed to the following activities:

### **6.1 Research and Development Programme**

In 2017, GAEC proposed to conduct safety assessments and monitor telecommunication base stations to ensure public safety; conduct groundwater resources assessments to improve water supply in water stressed communities and those affected by mining; organize stakeholder and public sensitization meetings on adoption and introduction of nuclear energy; conduct research into early detection and management of cancer; complete a factory to produce and supply vegetable and fruit farmers with baits to control the fruit fly menace; select site, and conduct economic and feasibility studies for the establishment of a nuclear power plant; Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) was to develop regulations and guidelines for compliance, enforcement, and monitoring as well as acquire new equipment for its operations.

### **6.2 Environmental Protection and Management Programme**

As part of environmental compliance and enforcement, EPA was to continue with the permitting process for 3,200 new undertakings and conduct regular compliance monitoring to ensure that the 3,500 undertakings comply with L.I 1652 and permit conditions.

The EPA was again to develop legal frameworks or regulations for environmental management, pesticides, waste management and offshore oil and gas exploration. The Agency was also to commence implementation of the hazardous waste and e-waste law, revise sector guidelines, and localize the implementation of the SDGs.

### **6.3 Spatial Planning and Human Settlement Programme**

The Department for Spatial Planning and Human Settlement planned to train district spatial planning members on the revised permitting procedures; train 100 stakeholders in Geographic Information System (GIS) applications related



to property tax administration, street addressing and development permitting; and formulate a business plan for the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority.

The Authority was further to complete the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regional spatial development framework as well as disseminate information on the National Spatial Development Framework.

#### 6.4 National Bio-safety Programme

In 2017, the National Bio-safety Authority (NBA) planned to create public awareness and educate stakeholders, train and develop staff and inspectors on biosafety management, develop and implement guidelines, rules and regulations, and training manuals in accordance with the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831).

#### 7.0 2017 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

It was realised that as at October 2017, an amount of Two Hundred and Forty Eight Million, Six Hundred and Twelve Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty Nine Cedis, Ninety Nine Pesewas (**GH¢248,612,189.99**) representing 67% of the general allocation had been released to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation. The breakdown is as follows:

**Table 3: Funds Released by October 2017**

| Budget Classification & Funding Source | 2017 Approved Budget  | 2017 Releases         | Expenditure           | %          | Variance              |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Employee Compensation                  | 177,765,586.00        | 148,137,988.33        | 148,137,988.33        | 83%        | 29,627,597.67         |
| Goods and Services                     | 11,200,390.00         | 3,253,391.00          | 3,253,391.00          | 29%        | 7,946,999.00          |
| CAPEX                                  | 7,000,000             | -                     | -                     | 0%         | 7,000,000.00          |
| IGF                                    | 56,688,121.00         | 59,073,748.72         | 52,043,886.33         | 92%        | 4,644,234.67          |
| Devt Partners                          | 97,498,045.00         | 38,147,061.94         | 32,093,442.70         | 33%        | 65,404,602.30         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                     | <b>349,152,142.00</b> | <b>248,612,189.99</b> | <b>235,528,708.36</b> | <b>67%</b> | <b>113,623,433.64</b> |

Source: Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation

## 8.0 ACTUAL PERFORMANCE FOR 2017

Funds released to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation were committed to the following activities:

### **Research and Development Programme**

#### **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) developed postharvest handling model for tomato, pepper and orange; released four varieties of yam (CRI-AfaseBiri, CRI-AfaseSoayinto, CRI-AfaseAdepa, CRI-AfaseHoodenfoo); seven maize hybrids (Kpariyura, Salin-kawana, SARI MAZ 1, Denbea, Similenu, Kum-naaya, Wang-Basig); and raised 120,000 seedlings of bamboo for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to restore degraded lands around water bodies in the North.

The Council also trained 10 artisans in construction supervision using local building materials for construction of affordable housing units. In addition, 60 engineers and architects were trained in the control of building deterioration and termite infestation both in Accra and Kumasi.

Baseline surveys and adoption studies were conducted on crop varieties and the observed adoption rates are: sweet potato (59 percent); cassava (41 percent); cocoyam (21 percent) and yam (6 percent).

As part of the Ministry's efforts to control and eliminate water and soil borne diseases, microfilaria prevalence infection was reduced from 13.2 percent to 12.5 percent, Onchocerciasis infection in the highest communities reduced from 26 percent to 24.6 percent, while the lowest also reduced from 1.5 percent to 1.36 percent.

In addition, soil transmitted helminth infection studied in 10 communities also showed reduction in the prevalence of hookworm infection from 15 percent to 13.5 percent; Schistosomiasis studied in some 28 communities had an average prevalence reduction from 15 percent to 13.8 percent.

#### **The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission**

The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) irradiated 25 tonnes of agricultural produce, medical and herbal products using the Gamma Irradiation Facility for improved postharvest management.

The Commission also monitored 700 sites to ensure public safety from electromagnetic radiations from radio frequency and frequency modulation cell sites. Assessment of safety on 500 stations for electromagnetic radiation was again carried out.

Again, the Commission monitored three sites for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMS) and 2000 officers for radiation exposures to mines/industrial workers.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitored 36 mining companies as part of its compliance monitoring programme. It also developed draft standards for use of Oxo-biodegradable additives in the production of flexible plastics and initiated development of regulations for both pesticide and industrial chemicals.

The Agency again monitored air quality at 13 sites. The results indicated that particle pollution (PM) 10 levels were above the EPA 24 hour level of 70µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, the EPA monitored 45 industries in the Accra and Tema regions for effluent quality and the results were higher than the EPA recommended guideline levels of 50mg/l, 75NTU and 1500 µS/cm. The EPA will resource and retool at least two Agency regional laboratories to undertake air quality and effluent monitoring programmes.

### **The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA)**

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) drafted five regulations for the control and use of radiation and carried out 80 inspections on radiation facilities throughout the country.

## **Illegal Mining (Galamsey)**

The fight against illegal mining was initiated in March this year. The elements of the fight included public education, suspension of small scale mining operations to allow polluted water bodies to recover and training of 400 small scale miners in sustainable mining practices at the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa. To maintain security in mining districts and enforce the ban, an Operation Vanguard made up of 400 strong security force was established. Studies were also undertaken to determine the scale of pollution of water bodies and land degradation.

In addition, government prepared a list of all licensed small scale miners to facilitate the vetting of the miners in respect to their location and size of their concessions, compliance to mining and environmental requirements and validity of the licences.

## **Spatial Planning and Human Settlement Authority**

In addressing Human Settlement Issues, the Authority completed the Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) for Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions.

## **National Biosafety Authority (NBA)**

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) established an Appeals Tribunal to address public concerns on biosafety issues. Three public awareness programmes on Biosafety were conducted. The Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) detection laboratory is 80 percent complete.

## **9.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2018**

### **Research and Development Programme**

#### **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**

The CSIR will in 2018 promote climate change, environmental management and green technology by developing adoptive strategies to combat the effect of climate change that foster resilient rural livelihoods for sustainable landscape restoration through climate smart agriculture.

The Council will also improve biomedical and public health through the prevention of animal and plant pests and diseases, control and eliminate air,

water and soil borne diseases as well as undertake air and water pollution research.

CSIR will further develop essential materials and industrial products using local raw materials, develop renewable energy systems for both domestic and commercial buildings and also promote and install biogas toilet systems in second cycle schools.

### **The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)**

In 2018, GAEC will construct a Nuclear Imaging Centre and a P3 facility. It will complete feasibility studies for the establishment of a Radiotherapy facility in Tamale for the management of cancer in the Northern part of the country.

GAEC will complete site investigation for the construction of Ghana's first nuclear power plant to add 1000 MW of power to the national grid. It will construct one Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) at Kintampo, cotton scale production plant at Manya Krobo and expand facility for mutation breeding.

In addition, GAEC will complete studies and construct the country's first radioactive waste disposal facility to ensure public and environmental safety, establish a National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) for welding and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) to train and certify welders and professionals.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

In 2018, the Agency will develop and operationalise regulations on pesticides and industrial chemicals for the entire life cycle including handling of used containers as well as develop and operationalize (Ghana) standard for use of oxo-biodegradable additives in production of flexible plastics nationwide.

The EPA will develop and implement awareness creation programmes for Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (ACT 917), facilitate and co-ordinate the establishment of collection and processing centres for electronic waste as per the mandate of the Act.

The Agency will further ensure the mainstreaming of the environmental component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into District Development Plans and monitor its implementation and collaborate with the Non-Formal Education Directorate to intensify hands-on awareness raising and capacity building programmes on environmental management.

### **Illegal Mining (Galamsey)**

To address issues relating to small scale mining, District Committees will be formed to fight illegal mining in all mining communities. In addition, a code of practice for small scale mining operations will be out doored whilst the Inter-ministerial Committee against illegal mining will interact with small scale mining associations to discuss all outstanding issues.

### **Spatial Planning and Human Settlement Authority**

In 2018, the Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) for Central, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Volta Regions will be prepared.

In addition, the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), Structure Plans (SP) and Local Plans (LP) for the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly and the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly will be prepared.

### **Biotechnology Development Authority**

The Authority will undertake nationwide biosafety public education, recruit and train biosafety personnel; strengthen the operations of the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) detective laboratory and review the Biosafety Act and strengthen the Biosafety administrative system.

## **9.0 ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR 2018**

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation has been allocated an amount of **Three Hundred and Sixty One Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Four (GH¢361,978,374)** Ghana Cedis for activities earmarked for the 2018 fiscal year. Out of the amount allocated **GH¢220,184,968** would be from GOG, **GH¢80,630,147** from IGF **GH¢61,163,260** from Development Partners.

The breakdown of the allocation is as follows:

**Table 4: ALLOCATION FOR 2018 – FUNDING SOURCES**

|                             | <b>GOG</b>         | <b>DP FUND</b>    | <b>IGF</b>        | <b>TOTAL</b>       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>WAGES AND SALARIES</b>   | 211,772,898        | -                 | 16,127,951        | <b>227,900,849</b> |
| <b>GOODS &amp; SERVICES</b> | 4,412,070          | 14,403,100        | 43,726,632        | <b>62,541,802</b>  |
| <b>CAPEX</b>                | 4,000,000          | 46,760,160        | 20,775,563        | <b>71,535,723</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>220,184,968</b> | <b>61,163,260</b> | <b>80,630,146</b> | <b>361,978,374</b> |

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2018 fiscal year

**Table 4: 2018 BUDGET ALLOCATION BY PROGRAMME & ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS**

| <b>Budget Programme/<br/>Economic Classification</b> | <b>Wages Salaries &amp;</b> | <b>Good Services &amp;</b> | <b>CAPEX</b>      | <b>TOTAL</b>       |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Management &amp; Administration</b>               | 1,769,000                   | 10,717,534                 | 33,968,668        | <b>46,455,202</b>  |
| <b>Research &amp; Development</b>                    | 189,864,807                 | 17,465,248                 | 20,639,104        | <b>227,969,159</b> |
| <b>Environmental Protection &amp; Management</b>     | 22,292,416                  | 32,256,003                 | 16,327,951        | <b>70,876,370</b>  |
| <b>Spatial Planning</b>                              | 13,887,225                  | 661,810                    | 400,000           | <b>14,949,035</b>  |
| <b>Biosafety Development</b>                         | 86,502                      | 1,441,207                  | 200,000           | <b>1,727,709</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>227,900,849</b>          | <b>62,541,802</b>          | <b>71,535,723</b> | <b>361,978,374</b> |

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2018 fiscal year

## **8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.1 GENERAL BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE FOR 2017**

It was observed that the approved budget of GH¢**349,152,142.00** performed at an average of 67% leaving a variance of **GH¢113, 623,433.64**. It is hoped that the variance would decrease after all commitments for the fourth quarter of the year have been honoured.

The Committee also observed that there were no releases for CAPEX for the 2017 fiscal year although an allocation of **GH¢6,000,000** was made. This affected all projects and programmes that were earmarked to be executed under the programme head. The Committee recommends that efforts should be made in the 2018 fiscal year to release allocations under CAPEX to ensure that all projects of the Ministry are executed.

It was also realised that the allocation under Development Partners performed by only 33%. Out of the **GH¢97,498,045** allocated, only **GH¢38,147,061.94** was released. It was explained that the allocated sum was not for only the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation but there is a portion to be accessed by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources under the e-waste programme. The funds could not be accessed because the process of choosing a consultant for the project is yet to be completed. The Committee recommends that strenuous efforts should be made at choosing the consultant to ensure that the project takes off for the benefit of all.

### **8.2 CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH**

It was realised that in the 2017 fiscal year the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in support of the government's programme on "Planting for food and jobs" developed several improved varieties of food including sweet potatoes, cassava, cocoyam and yam. These crops were adopted by Ghanaian farmers as well as several other farmers in the West African region due to their high level of yield. However because there is no legislation to protect the new varieties developed, no benefits accrued to the CSIR. The Committee recommends the reintroduction of the Plants Breeders



Bill to ensure that patents of the institution are protected and benefits accrue to it.

It was also realised that the 2018 allocation for CSIR under Donor had allocations for Capex and Goods and Services interchanged. The allocation for Capex has been given to Goods and Services. It is the hope of the committee that the Ministry of Finance would take note of the anomaly and make the necessary corrections to enable CSIR access its funds under Goods and Services.

#### 8.4 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**

It was realised that the Environmental Protection Agency has not been able to open planned district offices. The staffing situation in their existing regional and district offices averages three and one respectively. This is grossly inadequate to operate an effective and efficient regulatory agency. In 2016, the Agency was weaned off government subvention leaving IGF as the sole revenue source. The subsequent implementation of the capping policy reduced their revenue source by a further 34%. This situation has been occasioned by the capping of the internally generated funds of the Agency. The agency has had to rely on its short term investments to pay for the shortfall in compensation to the tune of GH¢5,169,786.91.

The opening of 13 new area offices also resulted in over spending of the agency's allocation under Goods and Services due to an increase in logistics and operational cost amounting to GH¢6,151,289.49.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should reconsider its capping policy to allow EPA to fully utilise its IGF. This, in the opinion of the Committee would allow EPA open more regional and district offices and improve the staffing situation to make it more effective and efficient.

The Committee was also informed that the contract for the construction of the headquarters building modelled after the green city concept of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi has been cancelled due to land litigation and contractual challenges. Out of an amount of \$8 Million advanced to the contractor, \$4 million has been lost and there

are efforts at recovering the remaining \$4 million. The Committee recommends that Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and EPA should ensure that the issues regarding the headquarters building are brought to a close and further investigations are made into the loss of the \$4 million.

#### **8.5 NUCLEAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

The Committee also noted with concern that the Nuclear Regulatory Authority although set up by law is yet to obtain the needed support it needs to function optimally. It still relies on the Atomic Energy Commission for support in terms of human resource. It is yet to receive approval for about 40 new staff that it seeks to engage.

The authority was also not able to utilise its IGF as support to its operations because the Ministry of Finance is yet to capture it as a non-tax revenue organisation. The Committee was however gratified to note that the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation is taking steps to ensure that the Ministry of Finance gives approval for the generation and utilisation of IGF by the Authority.

It was again realised that the Authority spent an amount of GH¢968,614.85 for the servicing of vehicles and Night allowance when it needs funds to purchase new cars to aid in its activities. The Committee considers the practice unacceptable and urges the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to take a further look at the activities of the Authority to ensure that such practices are curbed.

#### **8.6 NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY**

Issues of biosafety have generated a lot of misconceptions in society. There is therefore the need for the National Biosafety Authority to increase education on biosafety. The Authority however has very minimal staff. A request for 7 new staff is yet to receive clearance from the Ministry of Finance. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should grant approval to the authority to engage more staff to assist in its educational drive.

## **8.7 LAND USE AND SPATIAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

The Authority was established by the Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 (Act 925) to replace the former Town and Country Department of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

The Committee realised that the Authority is understaffed and is currently not in the position to deal effectively and efficiently with issues regarding spatial planning and land use. Its current staffing capacity is 7% of what it needs to operate optimally. Most of its staff are also aged and would go on pension soon without mentoring anyone because of the lack of staff. A request for 100 Assistant Town Planners is yet to receive approval although 750 officers are needed.

The Committee again realised that the impasse between SSNIT and the Authority over the use of the Authority's land has still not been resolved. The two institutions are yet to come up with an agreement on how much should be paid to the authority to enable it put up its own offices on its land at Cantonments. The Committee urges the Ministry and SSNIT to ensure that the long standing impasse is settled within the year.

## **8.8 ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION**

It came to the notice of the Committee that although the Atomic Energy Commission participates in the activities of the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) Ghana stands to lose its voting rights because it has not paid its contribution to IAEA since 2016. Ghana is expected to pay the Agency a Technical contribution fund allowance, National participation cost and regular budget contribution all amounting to €201,695.00 and \$18,725. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to pay up Ghana's Commitment to IAEA to ensure that it does not lose its vote on issues on Atomic Energy as well as other benefits that may accrue to the Atomic Energy Commission in terms of technical support and equipment.

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

There is currently a lack of understanding and appreciation of science, technology and innovation and its contribution to accelerated development and poverty reduction. This has led to the lack of sustainable investment in the areas of science, technology and innovation. If Ghana is to move in tandem with accelerated developments and poverty reduction in the world, then there is the need to ensure that the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and its agencies are well resourced. Adequate financial support should be given by the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and its agencies especially the newly created ones to ensure that they become functional.

In this regard, the Committee recommends for the adoption of its report and approval of an amount of **Three Hundred and Sixty One Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢361,978,374.00)** to support the activities of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2018 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted



**Hon. Emmanuel K. Agyarko**  
**Chairman**  
**Committee on Environment, Science & Technology**



**Anita Quartey -Papafio**  
**Clerk**  
**Committee on Environment, Science & Technology**