

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

IN THE THIRD 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
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR
THE 2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

DECEMBER 2019

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR
THE 2020 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2020 Financial Year was presented to Parliament on Wednesday, 13th November, 2019 by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179(1) of the Constitution.
- 1.2 Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 179 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were committed to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the Hon. Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu and Officials of the Ministry to consider the Annual Estimates. In attendance also were Officials of the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and the Officials for their attendance and for assisting the Committee in its 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. The Civil Service (Ministries) (Amendment) Instrument, 2017 (EI 28);
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2020 Financial Year.

4.0 VISION OF THE MINISTRY

The vision of the Ministry is to become an accountable, client-sensitive institution with enhanced participatory and representative democracy.

5.0 MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry exists to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate strategies for execution of government business in Parliament and guarantee good governance through dialogue and consensus building, with the development of skilled resources and modern technology for national development.

6.0 2019 BUDGET PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

6.1 The sum of **Two Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,127,498.00)** was approved for the Ministry for the 2019 Financial Year.

6.2 As at November 2019, the amount of **One Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four Ghana Cedis, Fifty Pesewas (GH¢1,545,994.50)** had been released and expended by the Ministry. The breakdown is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Details of Expenditure of the Ministry as at end of November 2019

Item of Expenditure	Approved Budget (GH¢)	Releases (GH¢)	Actual (GH¢)	Balance (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees	618,902.00	360,345.50	360,345.50	258,556.50
Goods and Services	1,508,596.00	1,185,649.00	1,185,649.00	322,947.00
Capital expenditure	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,127,498.00	1,545,994.50	1,545,994.50	581,503.50

6.2 In addition to the above expenditure, the Ministry received additional amount of **Three Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Two Hundred and Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢380,202.00)** from the Ministry of Finance, being an outstanding expenditure from the 2018 financial year.

7.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE YEAR 2019

The Ministry achieved the following in line with its planned programme for the year 2019:

- i. Engaged the Electoral Commission in March 2019 as part of its engagement with independent governance institutions in the country;
- ii. Engaged Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to discuss their contribution towards the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) in the year 2020;
- iii. Engaged the Media to discuss measures to deal with political vigilantism in the country;
- iv. Engaged political parties to discuss the menace of monetisation of politics in Ghana;
- v. Met with the Core Leadership of Parliament to evaluate the performance of Parliament;
- vi. Collaborated with PN Africa, Parliament and Centre for Democratic Governance to hold the Conference on the theme: *Preventing High Attrition Rate in Parliament: The Need for Stakeholder Engagement*;
- vii. Held a National Stakeholders' Dialogue on Monetisation of Politics as follow up action on its engagement with political parties on the subject; and
- viii. Engaged the Parliamentary Committees on Finance and Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs on employment creation and fiscal analyses of Bills.

8.0 THE MINISTRY'S PLANNED PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2020

In the year 2020, the Ministry intends to build upon its 2019 dialogue and engagement programmes and pursue the following:

- i. Continue the Parliamentary engagement project to discuss critical issues such as Parliamentary oversight and accountability of Government, fiscal analysis of bills, and relationship between MPs and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs);
- ii. Engage independent governance institutions and political parties to discuss issues of national importance;
- iii. Organise regional stakeholders' consultation on monetisation of politics in Ghana;
- iv. Engage the Council of State on matters of national importance;
- v. Interact with security agencies towards ensuring incident-free elections in 2020;
- vi. Continue engagement with Civil Society Organisations and the Media to discuss strategies to combat political vigilantism in the country and other pertinent issues; and
- vii. Interact with National House of Chiefs and religious leaders to deliberate on national issues.

9.0 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY

For the 2020 Financial Year, the sum of **Three Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,295,532.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for its activities. The details are shown in Table 2 in the overleaf.

Table 2: Details of the Ministry's 2020 Annual Budget Estimates

NUMBER	ITEM	ALLOCATION (GH¢)
1.	Compensation of Employees	1,048,736.00
2.	Goods & Services	2,246,796.00
3.	Investment	0
	Total	3,295,532.00

10.0 OBSERVATIONS

The following were the observations made by the Committee during its deliberations:

10.1 Persistent Low Budgetary Allocation to the Ministry

In analysing the trends of allocation to the Ministry since its restoration three years ago, the Committee has observed persistent low budgetary allocation to the Ministry. Officials of the Ministry have several times expressed to the Committee, the adverse impact of the financial constraint on the performance of certain critical activities of the Ministry.

It is worrying to note that the situation remains unaltered in the 2020 Estimates. The Committee was informed that, though the Ministry submitted a total budgetary request of **GH¢5,949,026.00** to undertake its critical activities for the year 2020, the Ministry of Finance allocated an amount of **GH¢3,295,532.00**, representing 55% of the total request. This allocation has created a shortfall of **GH¢2,653,494.00** as shown in Table 3. In view of the 2020 elections and the critical programmes the Ministry has planned towards the achievement of a successful, peaceful elections, the Committee strongly recommends to the Ministry of Finance to find additional resources to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to address the huge funding gap.

Table 3: Comparison between the 2020 Budget Estimates and the Ministry's 2020 Budgetary Request

NO.	ITEM	ALLOCATION (GH¢)	REQUEST (GH¢)	GAP
1.	Compensation	1,048,736.00	1,048,736.00	0
2.	Goods & Services	2,246,796.00	4,650,290.00	2,403,494.00
3.	Investment	0	250,000.00	250,000.00
	Total	3,295,532.00	5,949,026.00	2,653,494.00

10.2 2020 Compensation Vote

The Committee was informed that, eight (8) seconded Officials of the Ministry were successfully migrated into the Ministry's payroll in the year 2019 pursuant to a directive by the Ministry of Finance. It was also revealed to the Committee that, financial clearance has been obtained from the Ministry of Finance to recruit 11 new officers in the year 2020 to augment the Staff strength of the Ministry. It was accordingly gratifying to note that the Ministry's 2020 Compensation Vote has been increased to take account of the projected recruitment.

10.3 No Provision for Investment Votes

The Committee noted that, for the second time running, no provision has been allocated to the Ministry to fund investment activities. It may be recalled that the Committee pointed to a similar situation to the House in its Report on the 2019 Annual Estimates of the Ministry, and expected that the situation would be addressed in the 2020 Estimates. The Committee finds it worrying that the Ministry's 2020 investment request of **GH¢250,000.00** was declined by the Ministry of Finance. The request was to fund the rehabilitation of some office space, acquisition of computers, work stations and other office essentials among other things. The Officials intimated that, if the Ministry of Finance does not honour the 2020 Investment request, the outstanding and prospective

investment activities of the Ministry would have to be shelved yet again and suffer the adverse consequences thereof.

10.4 Inadequate Office Space

The Committee was further informed that, inadequate office space continues to hamper the operations of the Ministry. It came to light that, despite the numerous appeals by the Committee in previous Reports, in this august House, most parts of the Office building of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs are still occupied by some other public institutions, to the detriment of the Ministry. The Officials disclosed that, though it managed to get some of the 'squatters' to vacate the premises others have remained adamant. They indicated that, the situation has caused the inability of the Ministry to accept very critical postings to augment its staff strength due to the precarious office accommodation problem. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure their early ejection preferably by the end of the year 2019 to free the place for the exclusive purposes of the Ministry.

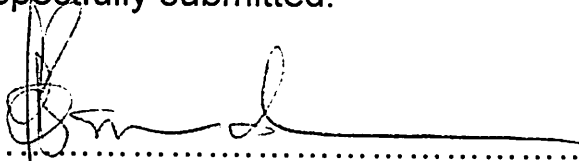
11.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee applauds the Ministry for its outstanding performance in the year 2019, especially in the face of severe financial constraints. Successful programmes such as the National Stakeholders' Dialogue on Monetisation of Politics and engagement with Parliament, independent constitutional bodies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the media were all undertaken in the course of the year.

The Committee welcomes the Ministry's planned programme to build upon the gains made in the year 2020 to further enhance the quality of governance of the country. In that regard, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to find additional resources for the Ministry, possibly through a Supplementary Budget to fill the gaping financial gap in the 2020 allocation especially in respect of the zero provision for the Ministry's investment activities.

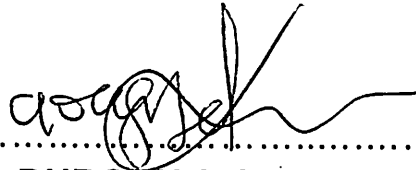
Subject to the foregoing, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt this Report and approve the sum of **Three Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,295,532.00)** to fund the activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2020 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. BEN ABDALLAH BANDA
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY



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AKUA DUROWAA O. AGYEKUM (MRS)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE