

IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHT 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 2021 FINANCIAL YEAR



MARCH 2021

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR THE 2021 FINANCIAL YEAR**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2021 Financial Year was presented to Parliament on Friday, 12th March, 2021 by the Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu in accordance with Article 179 of the Constitution.

1.2 The Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal & Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 179 of the Standing Orders of the House.

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 were Officials of the Ministry of Finance to assist in the 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; and
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2021 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 2020 BUDGET PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY

6.1 The sum of **Three Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,295,532.00)** was approved for the Ministry for the 2020 Financial Year.

6.2 As at December 2020, an amount of **Two Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Ghana Cedis, Twenty-Five Pesewas (GH¢2,893,436.25)** 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 December 2020

Item Description	Approved Budget (GH¢)	Actual Releases (GH¢)	Variance (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees	1,048,736.00	515,896.10	532,839.90
Goods & Services	2,246,796.00	1,460,417.40	786,378.60
Capital expenditure	0	917,122.75	
TOTAL	3,295,532.00	2,893,436.25	402,095.75

7.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE YEAR 2020

The Ministry achieved the following in line with its planned programme for the year 2020:

- i. Engaged the Core Leadership of Parliament under the theme “Parliament and the sustenance of Ghana’s Democracy and beyond;
- ii. Held another engagement with the Core Leadership of Parliament under the theme “Nurturing Career Legislators in Ghana: Prospects and Challenges respectively;
- iii. Examined the nature, causes and consequences of the high attrition among Parliamentarians and offered recommendation to address same;
- iv. Discussed the prospects and challenges of nurturing career legislators;
- v. Strengthened the relationship between Parliament and the Ministry of Parliamentary affairs;
- vi. Engaged some Independent Governance Institutions on the theme “Independent Governance Institutions and elections 2020 in Ghana: some Reflections;
- vii. Engaged with the Expanded Leadership of Parliament on the theme “The Committee System in Ghana’s Parliament: An Assessment;
- viii. Engaged Civil Society Organisations on the theme “Civil Society Organisations and Democratic Elections in Ghana: The 2020 Election in Focus;
- ix. Engaged with the Security Agencies and Political Parties on the theme “2020 Election and its implications for Peace and Security in Ghana”. The aim was for peaceful, free, fair, transparent and accountable elections;

- x. Engaged with Religious Leaders and National Media Commission on the theme “Towards Democratic Elections in December 2020: The Perspectives of the National Media Commission and Religious Leaders”.

8.0 In the year 2021, the Ministry intends to build on the progress made in 2020 through dialogue and engagement programmes and pursue the following:

- i. Strengthen the capacity of the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of Government Business to perform the core functions as they relate to the following;

Analysis of Government Budget, Loan Agreement, fiscal Impact of Legislative Proposals, Critical review of Bills, Analysis of Security and Security Related Issues and empirical examination of Intelligence and communication issues.

- ii. Strengthen the Capacity of Parliament to exercise its core and auxiliary functions;
- iv. Improve participation of Civil Society in National Development;
- v. Deepen political parties' participation in National Development;
- vi. Organize a conference on Constitutional Review with the view to engender debate towards a new Constitution; and
- vi. Collaborate to strengthen the Independence Governance Institutions to perform their functions effectively and efficiently.

9.0 PLANNED PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS FOR THE 2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

For the 2021 Financial Year, the sum of **Fifteen Million, One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,144, 552.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for its activities. The details are shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Details of the Ministry's 2021 Annual Budget Estimates

NUMBER	ITEM	ALLOCATION (GH¢)
1.	Compensation of Employees	2,932,635.00
2.	Goods & Services	2,611,917.00
3.	CAPEX	9,600,000.00
	TOTAL	15,144,552.00

10.0 OBSERVATIONS

10.1 Non-release of Fourth-Quarter Budgetary Allocation

The Committee noted a trend in the Ministry's presentation which revealed that, since the re-emergence of the Ministry in 2017, consistently, Fourth-Quarter Budgetary Allocations have not been released to the Ministry to undertake planned programmes and activities. The Ministry complained that, this have had the effect of stifling the it from undertaking some critical activities which are programmed for implementation in the Fourth-Quarter of each budget cycle. The Committee is of the view that, this trend is inimical to the effective delivery of the mandate of the Ministry. The Committee hopes that, from the 2021 Budget year forward, the trend would be curtailed to enable the Ministry of Parliament Affairs fully utilize its budgetary allocation for the intended purposes for the whole budget year.

10.2 2020 allocation for Compensation of Employees

The Committee observed an under-utilisation of a significant proportion of the 2020 Compensation allocation of the Ministry from (GH¢1,048,736.00) to an actual expenditure of (GH¢ 515,896.10). The underutilisation was explained as owing to the

fact that during the year under review, the Ministry of Finance granted financial clearance to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to recruit eleven (11) specialized Experts and Consultants from various disciplines to augment the staff strength of the Ministry. However, in view of the lack of adequate office space for the Experts and their support staff, the Ministry was unable to carry out the recruitment exercise. The Committee was also made aware that the Ministry was given authorization to carry out promotion exercises for employees of the Ministry who were overdue for promotion. Unfortunately, the exercise could not be undertaken as projected. These two reasons accounted for under-utilisation of a significant proportion of the 2020 approved Compensation Vote of the Ministry by over 51%.

10.3 Inadequate Office Space

The Committee was informed that, a greater portion of the Office building of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is occupied by some other public institutions thus ensuing in overcrowding and discomfort to personnel at the Ministry. Officials informed the Committee that, although the Ministry has successfully re-claimed two floors in the building, however the rest of the building is still under occupancy by other public institutions. The situation has resulted in the inability of the Ministry to recruit additional staff with different gradation and skill sets to augment the staff strength of the Ministry. This Committee opined that, the problem with the office accommodation has the potential of impacting on productivity and impedes the Ministry from effectively delivering on its statutory mandate.

10.4 2020 Allocation for CAPEX

The Committee also noted that, even though there was no Allocation made for CAPEX in the year under review, however the Officials informed the Committee that a proposal was made to the Ministry of Finance for the release of **GH¢ 917,122.75** from the Contingency Fund for the rehabilitation of some office space, acquisition of computers, work stations and other office essentials. The Committee notes that, this is the second time that the Ministry has recorded zero allocation on its CAPEX account. In the 2021 Budget however, the Ministry has been allocated an amount of **(GH¢ 9,600,000.00)** for Capital Expenditure, this will enable the Ministry seek out a sustainable solution to the

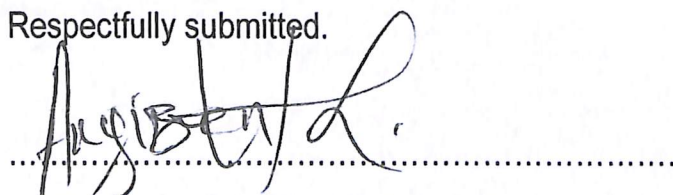
office space challenge. This is particularly critical this year in view of the Ministry's outlook for 2021 which will require the recruitment of experts with highly specialised skill sets. There would then be the need to accord them conducive office accommodation. Releases would need to be fast-tracked to secure and furnish appropriate offices for the use of the experts when they are engaged.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The Committee commends the Ministry for its achievements in the year 2020 as the nation prepared for the 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. The Committee supports the Ministry's planned programme in the ensuing year to build upon their achievements to further enhance the quality of governance of the country noting that the expansion of the scope of the Ministry and the deployment of human and material resources would significantly enhance its operations.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the sum of **Fifteen Million One Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢15,144, 552.00)** to fund the activities of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the 2021 Financial Year.

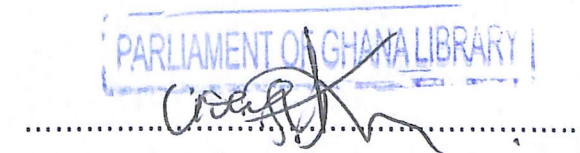
Respectfully submitted.



HON. KWAME ANYIMADU ANTWI

**(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS)**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY



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

MARCH 2021