

**IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS**

**ON THE**

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY  
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITALISATION FOR  
THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**DECEMBER 2022**



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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta presented to Parliament the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Order 140(4) and Order 182 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation were committed to the Committee on Communications for consideration and report.

**2.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Communications and Digitalisation, Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful and Officials of the Ministry to consider the Annual Budget Estimates. Officials of the Ministry of Finance were in attendance to assist in the deliberations.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and the Officials for attending the meeting and clarifying issues raised during the deliberations.

**3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee referred to the following documents during the deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. Cybersecurity Act, 2020 (Act 1038);
- iv. Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission Act, 2003 (Act 649);
- v. The 2022 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation;
- vi. The Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2022-2025;

vii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 Financial Year; and

viii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year.

#### **4.0 VISION, MISSION AND GOAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITALISATION**

##### **4.1 Vision of the Ministry**

The vision of the Ministry is to ensure the convergence of communication technologies to facilitate the promotion of a viable integrated national development process within a global setting.

##### **4.2 Mission of the Ministry**

The mission of the Ministry is to facilitate the development of a reliable and cost-effective world-class Communications infrastructure and services, driven by appropriate technological innovations and accessible by all citizens to enhance the promotion of economic competitiveness in a knowledge-based environment.

##### **4.3 Goal of the Ministry**

The goal of the Ministry is to promote the development of Ghana into a knowledge-based society and a smart economy through the use of ICT.

#### **5.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY**

The core functions of the Ministry are as follows:

- i. Initiate and formulate ICT policies taking into account the needs and aspirations of the people;
- ii. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of the Communications and Digitalisation Sector;
- iii. Develop appropriate regulations to protect consumers and stimulate competition in the communications sector; and
- iv. Build capacity for the ICT sector.

## **6.0 AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITALISATION**

The following are the Agencies under the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation:

- i. National Communications Authority (NCA);
- ii. Cyber Security Authority (CSA);
- iii. Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC);
- iv. National Information Technology Agency (NITA);
- v. Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC);
- vi. The Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE); and
- vii. Data Protection Commission (DPC); and
- viii. Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet).

## **7.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY**

The policy objectives in line with the Ministry's Medium-Term Development Plan are outlined as follows:

- i. Enhance application of ICT in national development;
- ii. Expand the digital landscape; and
- iii. Enhance Climate Change Resilience.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN 2022**

The sum of Five Hundred and Six Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢506,832,000) was approved for the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation and was later revised to Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢439,161,727). Out of the revised budget, the Ministry and its Agencies expended a total of One Hundred and Eighteen Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢118,720,452). The details are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Details of Financial Performance of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation as at November 2022**

<b>Economic classification</b>	<b>Approved Budget (GHC)</b> (a)	<b>Revised Budget (GHC)</b> (b)	<b>Releases as at end of November 2022 (GHC)</b> (c)	<b>Actual Expenditure (GHC)</b> (d)	<b>Variance (GHC)</b> (b-d)
Compensation	27,582,000	27,582,000	22,816,318	22,163,992	4,765,682
Goods and Services	208,858,000	158,113,427	57,946,271	45,225,108	100,167,156
Capital Expenditure	64,474,000	47,548,300	2,939,926	1,525,416	44,608,374
Development Partner Funds	205,918,000	205,918,000	196,401,090	49,805,936	9,516,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>506,832,000</b>	<b>439,161,727</b>	<b>280,103,604</b>	<b>118,720,452</b>	<b>159,058,123</b>

## 9.0 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN 2022

### 9.1 Headquarters of the Ministry

The Headquarters of the Ministry achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Trained 3,000 girls and 300 ICT Teachers in Bono, Bono East and Ahafo regions under the Girls-In-ICT Project;
- ii. Trained 340 women in collaboration with UNESCO under the ICT Skills for Entrepreneur Women Empowerment (ISEWE);
- iii. Trained about 2,490 people in digital skills with the support of the GIZ, a German Company;
- iv. Established 378 Cyber labs in public schools and 15 Community ICT Centres through the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC);
- v. Developed a draft Digital Economy Policy to update the 2003 ICT4AD Policy which is currently undergoing engagement with stakeholders in the ICT industry, academia and Civil Society Groups;
- vi. Continued the SIM Card re-registration exercise;
- vii. Provided 10 Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) sites with stand-alone solar power solution to ensure clean, stable and reliable electricity power for the DTT Network platform;

## 9.2 Cyber Security Authority (CSA)

In 2022, CSA achieved the following:

- i. Inaugurated the Governing Board of CSA;
- ii. Inaugurated the Joint Cybersecurity Committee (JCC);
- iii. Developed the Framework for the Licensing of Cybersecurity Service Providers, Accreditation of Cybersecurity Establishments and Accreditation of Cybersecurity Professionals;
- iv. Developed the Framework for the Accreditation of Sectoral Computer Emergency Response Teams;
- v. Registered the Critical Information Infrastructure (CII);
- vi. Celebrated the National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) 2022;
- vii. Launched the maiden edition of the National Cybersecurity Challenge (NCC);
- viii. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mozambique and Rwanda to promote the cyber security agenda;
- ix. Finalised the National Cyber Security Policy Strategy (NCSPS);
- x. Finalised the Child Online Protection (COP) Framework;
- xi. Adopted the Scheme of Service and Organisational Manual of the CSA;
- xii. Registered CSA's Legal and Compliance Unit under the General Legal Council; and
- xiii. Organised the Africa Safer Internet Day 2022.

## 9.3 Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC)

PCSRC achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Licensed 54 new postal and courier operators and renewed 90 Licenses;
- ii. Carried out 56 inspection and monitoring activities on postal and courier operators;
- iii. Introduced the Single Bike Operator Category of Licensing;
- iv. Undertook 3 clampdown exercises on illegal operators and subsequently impounded over 100 motorbikes belonging to illegal operators;

- v. Embarked on 12 consumer outreach programmes;
- vi. Opened one new regional office in Kumasi;
- vii. Reconstructed the Commission's website and made it fully functional; and
- viii. Organised training for domestic small operators.

#### **9.4 National Information Technology Agency (NITA)**

Among others, NITA achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Developed a Policy and Strategy document to design a Government Cloud Infrastructure with the aim to support the public sector with cloud services;
- ii. Integrated a mobile app to the Ghana.Gov platform to improve Citizen-to-Government engagement in the Governance process;
- iii. Completed the deployment of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI);
- iv. On-boarded and integrated the National Identification Authority and the Ghana Immigration Service as Certificate Authorities (CA);
- v. Organised a stakeholder engagement to solicit and incorporate input for effective implementation of Government digital services;
- vi. Enrolled 43 MDAs and 47 MMDAs unto the Smart Workplace; and
- vii. Undertook an IT Audit in the Judicial Service, Fair Wages and Salaries Commission and National Council for Persons with Disability to ascertain the quantum and scope of IT infrastructure, systems and applications.

#### **9.5 The Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE)**

AITI-KACE achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Appointed and inaugurated the Governing Board for the Centre;
- ii. Trained 1301 people and about 2600 people in Regular Programmes and Special Programmes respectively;
- iii. Supported the training of Trainers for national initiatives such as the Girls-in-ICT project and GIFEC Community ICT Centre (CIC) projects;



- iv. Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with key educational institutions including the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR);
- v. Developed an AI-based cocoa quality detection application to determine quality and classification of cocoa beans;
- vi. Completed a new web portal for the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation; and
- vii. Completed a Micro, Small and Medium Gateway Portal in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

#### **9.6 Data Protection Commission (DPC)**

In 2022, DPC achieved the following:

- i. Registered 612 new Data Controllers and renewed 539 licences of existing Data controllers;
- ii. Trained 6 staff of DPC as Data Protection Practitioners;
- iii. Trained 203 personnel as Certified Data Protection Supervisors;
- iv. Conducted paid awareness and free awareness training for 215 persons and 674 persons respectively; and
- v. Generated revenue worth Two Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Ghana Cedis, Fifty-Five Pesewas (GH¢2,945,667.55).

#### **9.7 Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet)**

GMet achieved the following in 2022:

- i. Installed 16 Agro meteorological standard automatic weather stations for data collection in the agriculture sector and help in research to improve agriculture;
- ii. Refurbished the only Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) at Kotoka International Airport;
- iii. Recruited 300 personnel including NABCO personnel who were assigned to the Agency; and
- iv. Provided tailor-made impact-based forecast.

## **10.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR**

### **10.1 Headquarters of the Ministry**

In furtherance of its activities, the Headquarters of the Ministry plans to undertake the following activities in 2023:

- i. Complete stakeholder consultation and finalise the Ghana Digital Economy Policy;
- ii. Train 3,000 girls and 300 ICT Teachers as part of the implementing of the Girls-in-ICT Initiative;
- iii. Organise capacity building programmes for selected staff in relevant areas such as Statistics & Data Analytics, Policy Development & Analysis, Advanced Excel and Budget Preparation;
- iv. Complete the development of Scheme of Service for the IT/IM class in the Civil Service;
- v. Organise capacity building programmes for the IT/IM class in the Civil Service;
- vi. Continue the deployment of independent stand-alone solar power supply system at the outstanding 32 Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) sites; and
- vii. Utilise the Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT for digital skills development and capacity building for Civil and Public Servants.

### **10.2 Cyber Security Authority (CSA)**

CSA plans to carry out the following in 2023:

- i. Develop Legislative Instruments under the Act 1038;
- ii. Implement the Framework for the CSPs, Accreditation of the Cyber Security Establishment and Accreditation of CPs;
- iii. Complete the facility to host the Cyber Security Authority;
- iv. Develop and deploy a Regulatory Management System for the Authority;
- v. Develop and implement the Risk Management Framework;
- vi. Develop and implement the Crisis Management System for the Authority;
- vii. Develop Sectoral Directives for key CII Sectors such as Energy, Health and Finance;
- viii. Undertake CII Compliance and Audit activities;

- ix. Deploy the Information Sharing System;
- x. Celebrate the National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) 2023;
- xi. Organise a Cybercrime/Cybersecurity Media Sensitisation Programme;
- xii. Regularise the employment of all contract staff of the Authority;
- xiii. Organise Capacity Building Programmes for the staff of the Authority;
- xiv. Launch the national Child Online Protection (COP) Framework and implement the national Cybersecurity Challenge;
- xv. Develop and implement the COP Guidelines for children, parents and educators;
- xvi. Coordinate investigations with other law enforcement agencies; and
- xvii. Support the development of a Data Retention Framework for criminal justice purposes.

### **10.3 Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC)**

PCSRC intends to undertake the following programmes and initiatives in 2023:

- i. Facilitate an amendment to the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission Act, 2003 (Act 649);
- ii. Expand its operations to 2 Regional Capitals (Tamale and Sekondi-Takoradi);
- iii. Continue to sanitise the Sector by weeding out most illegal operators through clampdown exercises;
- iv. Increase its internally generated funds by 37%; and
- v. Encourage the integration of technology in the provision of postal and courier services.

### **10.4 National Information Technology Agency (NITA)**

In 2023, NITA plans to undertake the following:

- i. Upgrade the National Government Cloud Infrastructure with functionalities and features to cater for the financial sector;

- ii. Integrate a citizens' portal via a mobile app to improve citizen to government engagement;
- iii. Organise ICT Training workshops and institutionalise a yearly ICT Awareness Month;
- iv. Fully implement the Enterprise Architecture and Interoperability Framework to ensure that all IT projects are coherently implemented according to standards and best practices;
- v. Implement an Architecture Compliance Review (ACR) process as part of an IT Governance model;
- vi. Implement the Traffic Management System;
- vii. Automate the workflows of the Agencies already on-board the Smart Workplace platform;
- viii. Launch and publish the first Digital Economy Index Report to help Ghana track its effort within the Digital Economy Ecosystem and measure the impact of various policies and initiatives each year;
- ix. Develop a framework for adopting new and emerging technologies;
- x. Initiate the process of deploying an integrated registration and regulatory platform;
- xi. Collaborate with other state institutions to certify all ICT equipment imported into the country to avoid having substandard products and services;
- xii. Embark on a nationwide assessment to ascertain the state of Government IT infrastructure in six public institutions (Ghana Health Service, Ministry of Health, Ghana Water Company, National Identification Authority, Electricity Company of Ghana and National Disaster Management Organisation); and
- xiii. Organise capacity building programmes for focal persons in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to upload data unto the Ghana Open Data Initiative (GODI) platform.

#### **10.5 The Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE)**

AITI-KACE has planned to carry out the following activities in 2023:

- i. Work with the Office of the Head of Civil Service (OHSC) to commence training of all Civil Servants in Digital Skills;
- ii. Develop new programmes in emerging technologies such as Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT);

- iii. Work with Development Partners such as GIZ, UNICEF and World Bank to increase Digital skills training to vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- iv. Set up state-of-the-art Robotics Laboratory to train Engineering graduates on employable skills;
- v. Continue the TV White Space research to support internet access to hard-to-reach communities; and
- vi. Operationalise all Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with other institutions.

#### **10.6 Data Protection Commission (DPC)**

DPC intends to undertake the following in 2023:

- i. Enhance National Awareness through Collaborative Work;
- ii. Scale up to the regions;
- iii. Train 400 personnel as Data Protection Supervisors; and
- iv. Register 900 institutions as Data Controllers and renew licences of 700 institutions.

#### **10.7 Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet)**

GMet plans to undertake the following in 2023:

- i. Focus on research in climate analysis and projections with support from Denmark Meteorological Institute to improve evidence-based weather and climate information to inform decision-making;
- ii. Install 20 additional Automatic Weather Stations with support from the Ghana Digital Acceleration Project; and
- iii. Continue to collaborate with both local and international institutions to train staff in other related areas of relevance while building their competencies to promote efficiency, quality serviced delivery.

#### **11.0 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY FOR 2023**

The sum of Seven Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢787,742,208) has been allocated to the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation for the implementation of its activities for the 2023 Financial Year. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the allocation.

**Table 2: Details of 2023 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation**

Number	Expenditure Item	Budgetary Allocation (GHC)
1.	Compensation	153,845,969
2.	Goods and Services	167,968,887
3.	Capital Expenditure	465,927,352
<b>Total</b>		<b>787,742,208</b>

## 12.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations during the deliberations:

### 12.1 No release in respect of 2022 Capex Vote of the Headquarters of the Ministry

The Committee observed the Headquarters of the Ministry did not receive any amount from its revised Capex Vote for the 2022 Financial Year. The revised Capex Vote of the Headquarters of the Ministry was One Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,568,260).

On what accounted for the above state of affairs, Officials of the Ministry of Finance attributed the state of affairs to the Ministry's late application for commencement certificate to initiate certain procurement in June 2022. Being dissatisfied with this explanation, the Committee urged the Ministry of Finance to expedite its processing timelines for timely issuance of the commencement certificates to avert recurrence of the problem.

### 12.2 SIM Card Re-Registration exercise

On the status of the SIM Card Re-registration, Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that a total number of 30,356,306 SIMs (representing 73.59%) of the total number of 41,249,894 SIMs had completed Stage 1 of the registration process as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, which entailed the linking of subscribers' Ghana Cards to their SIM Cards. The number of people who have completed the stage 2 of the process stood at 22,442,542 (representing 54.41%) leaving a total number of 18,807,352 (representing 45.59%) unregistered SIMs under Stage 2. As at November 2022, a total number of 8,759,090 SIMs were blocked while 698,421 SIMs were reconnected leaving 8,060,669 blocked SIMs as at 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.

In view of the substantial number of blocked SIMs coupled with the attendant hardships and loss of revenue to the telecommunication companies, the Committee urged the

Ministry of Communication and Digitalisation to reconsider the use of the Ghana Card as the sole ID card for the exercise and the use of other identity cards such as the valid passports.

### **12.3 E-Transform Project**

The Committee noted the successful implementation of the E-transform project which started in 2015 and due to end in October 2023. The project created 3582 jobs through the digital innovation interventions and trained youth in digital skills and entrepreneurship and indexed 12 million birth and death records. The project has also indexed 5.5 million records of the Judicial Service and fifty (50) High Courts in Accra have implemented E-justice system. It has further processed 17 out of 20 E-parliament and E-voting systems. Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that there is the need to upgrade ICT infrastructure and connectivity services towards the full realisation of the Digital Ghana Agenda. To this end, the Ghana Digital Acceleration Project has been designed to address the outstanding issues.

### **12.4 Ghana Digital Acceleration Project (GDAP)**

Officials of the Ministry reported that the Ministry has received a 5-Year funding from the World Bank to implement the Ghana Digital Acceleration Project in 2023. They also informed the Committee that the project is estimated to cost Two Hundred Million United States Dollars (USD\$200,000,000). It was noted that a loan request to that effect has been laid in the House for consideration and approval.

### **12.5 Status of Rural Telephony Projects**

The Committee was informed that the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) has constructed 1,003 rural telephony sites out of which 525 have been integrated and functioning. By this achievement, about 1,575 inhabitants in rural the beneficiary communities could now make calls via mobile phones thereby promoting socio-economic activities in those communities.

Officials of the Ministry, however, disclosed that the project which commenced in November 2020 was scheduled to end in June 2022. However, the project target of 2,016 rural telephony sites could not be achieved due to supply chain issues and the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, the project has been extended to August 2023.

### **12.6 Accommodation needs of the Data Protection Commission**

It came to the fore during the Committee's deliberations that DPC lacked office accommodation. Officials of DPC informed the Committee that Commission currently operates from a rented facility and pays a monthly rent of Three Thousand, Two Hundred

United States Dollars (US\$3200) and has no office in the other Regions. They, however, disclosed that the State Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA) has offered DPC a number of state properties to choose for its head office accommodation. DPC has commenced processes to secure the accommodation.

## **12.7 DPC's IGF Performance**

The Committee observed that DPC performed well in respect of its IGF for 2022. Out of the IGF of Three Million, Two Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-One Ghana Cedis, Forty Pesewas (GH¢3,217,451.40) approved for the Commission for 2022, the Commission was able to mobilise the amount of Two million, Nine hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Ghana Cedis, Fifty-Five Pesewas (GH¢2,945,667.55) (representing 92% of the approved IGF). It was further noted that the Commission has projected to mobilise IGF of Three Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,845,525.00). The Committee was informed that DPC depends solely on funds generated internally to implement its programmes and activities. In view of the fact that DPC depends solely on IGF to finance its activities, the Committee urged the Officials of the Commission to strive to mobilise more revenue in the ensuing year.

## **12.8 Low 2023 IGF Projection for AITI-KACE**

The Committee noted a reduction in the IGF projection for AITI-KACE for 2023. As against the Centre's IGF for 2022 which was GH¢2,714,906, the amount of GH¢774,084, has been allocated to the Centre for 2023. This represents a 71.5% reduction of 2022 IGF for the Centre. When questioned about what accounted for such a substantial reduction, Officials of the Ministry of Finance stated that, in making allocations for IGF, the Ministry evaluates the IGF performance of entities for the previous year and makes the projection for the following year. They explained that AITI-KACE performed poorly in terms of IGF mobilisation for 2022 when the Centre generated a paltry amount of 838,446.13 out of an allocation of GH¢2,714,906 (30% of approved 2022 IGF). The Ministry of Finance decided it would be prudent to lower the Centre's IGF projection for the 2023 fiscal year in light of this unsatisfactory performance. The Agency's officials gave the Committee assurances that the low projection would not lead to complacency and that they were optimistic about exceeding the target set for them.

## **12.9 Debts owed to GMet**

The Committee was informed that the Ghana Meteorological Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Act 1002) makes provision for GMet to be paid 10% of all landing and 10% of over-flight charges collected by the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) as well as 5% of Airport Tax collected by the Ghana Airport Company Limited (GACL). However, these payments have not been forthcoming over the years and GCAA and GACL currently owe



GMet \$2,270,027.50 and \$17,416,295 respectively. The Committee strongly advocates the setting up of a joint inter-ministerial group to work in collaboration with the Committee to secure a greater degree of transparency and timeliness in the enforcement of Act 1002. The Committee urges the Agency to exercise its powers under the Amendment Act to pursue GCAA and GACL so that they honour all outstanding statutory payments due GMet.

#### **12.10 Releases in respect of GMet's 2022 Budget**

The Committee noted that as at the end of November, 2022, the Ghana Meteorological Agency had not received any amount from the GH¢1,176,000 revised Capex Vote for its operations. Additionally, only a paltry amount of GH¢51,619, representing 29% of the total allocation of GH¢180,659 revised Goods and Services Vote was released to the Agency. According to the Officials of GMet, the inadequate releases impaired the Agency's ability to undertake several operational needs in 2022. The Committee is highly concerned about such low releases and urges the Ministry of Finance to release funds to enable the Agency fulfil its mandate.

#### **12.11 NITA Data Charges for all MDAs**

Officials of NITA informed the Committee that NITA spends about GH¢25 million per annum on internet connectivity for all Ministries, Departments and Agencies. However, payments for these data services are not forthcoming from the MDAs. The Ministry of Finance in a bid to assist NITA, makes a specific allocation each year for data. In 2022, NITA was allocated an amount of GH¢3,600,000 for data charges out of which a paltry amount of GH¢486,923 was actually released. The Agency has been allocated an amount of GH¢750,000 as NITA data charges for all MDAs in 2023. To address the non-payment of the data charges, NITA has written to the indebted MDAs, publicised their names in the newspapers and also threatened them with disconnection. The Committee is highly concerned about the non-payment of the NITA charges and impresses upon all the MDAs to prioritise the payment for NITA's services.

#### **12.12 National Data Centre**

The Committee noted with grave concern that the Data Centre which is a crucial feature of the e-government communication infrastructure network is running at a loss as the revenue generated from the Centre is low compared to the expenditure. The Committee observed that the National Information Technology Agency pays almost half a million to ECG as electricity bills for the National Data Centre. The Committee is of the view that NITA is being burdened to carry the load of running the Data Centre even though other Agencies like the GRA are running on the back of the Data Centre and benefitting tremendously. In order to alleviate the burden on NITA, the Committee recommends that beneficiaries of the Data Centre should be obligated to make financial contributions to support the running of the Centre.

### **12.13 Status of NITA's Commercialisation Project**

The Committee was informed that NITA has not yet received any financial benefits from the commercialization of the e-Government Infrastructure. The infrastructure underwent rectification to make it more functional because, prior to the contract for the commercialization project being signed, it was not in great shape. Following the rectification phase, the revenue share model was expected to kick in for NITA to be allocated its share of the revenue accrued. The Committee was glad to learn that both audit teams from NITA and the private firm will undertake a reconciliation at the end of the year to examine the inflow of money and the costs paid to upgrade the infrastructure, and NITA will receive what is due the Agency.

### **12.14 PCSRC's IGF retention**

The Committee noted that the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC) was able to internally generate an amount of One Million, One Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand, One Hundred and Eight Ghana Cedis and Sixty-Two Pesewas (GH¢1,131,108.62) in 2022. This amount represents 70.34% of the Commission's 2022 IGF allocation of One Million, Six Hundred and Eight Thousand (GH¢1,608,000). For the 2023 fiscal year, the Commission has been allocated an IGF of One Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty-Eight Ghana Cedis and Eighteen Pesewas (GH¢1,695,748.18). The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance increase the IGF retention of PCSRC from the present rate of 66% to 100% in order to facilitate the Commission's activities in 2023.

### **12.15 Funding challenges facing Cyber Security Authority**

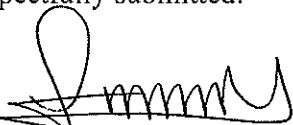
The Committee took note of the low budgetary allocation to the Cyber Security Authority for the 2023 financial year. Officials of the Authority disclosed that even though CSA submitted and justified a proposed budget of GH¢38,131,98.30 to cater for Employee Compensation, Goods and Services, Capital Expenditure and Programme of Activities for 2023, the meagre sum of GH¢1,757,597 (representing 5%) has been allocated to the Agency. The Committee believes that this inadequate budgetary allocation will hamper the implementation and operationalization of projects earmarked to be carried out by the Authority in 2023. In view of this, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to source additional funding for CSA so that it can regularise its 100 staffing capacity, purchase official vehicles for the Authority, pay the outstanding balance for the Technical Operationalisation of CSA, and provide sustainable funding for the operationalization of the Cyber Security Fund.

### 13.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

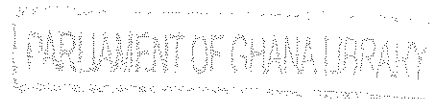
The Committee has critically examined the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation for the 2023 Financial Year and is of the view that the Estimates are justified. The Committee acknowledges that the operations of MOCD are crucial to the growth and development of the country and therefore the Ministry must be adequately resourced to carry out its mandate. The Committee consequently urges the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funding to support the Ministry and its Agencies especially CSA to implement their operations in 2023.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to adopt this Report and approve the sum of **Seven Hundred Eighty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢787,742,208)** for its activities of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation for the 2023 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. CYNTHIA MAMLE MORRISON  
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS**



**MR. ANTHONY AGYEKUM  
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

