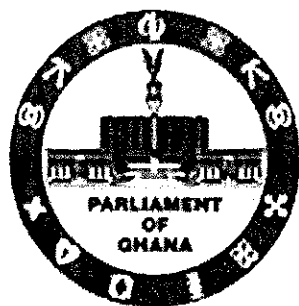


**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF  
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON THE  
2023 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA**

**1.0. INTRODUCTION**

The Minister for Finance Hon Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2023 financial year to Parliament on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Section 21(3) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

The Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana were subsequently laid before the House in accordance with article 178 (1) (a) and 179 (2) (b) of the 1992 Constitution, section 15 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460) and section 15(a) of the Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).

Pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Estimates of Parliament to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee was assisted by the Clerk to Parliament, Mr Cyril K. O. Nsiah and Officials of the Parliamentary Service to consider the Estimates. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Clerk and his officials for the assistance.

## **2.0. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- ii. Public Financial Management Act 2016 (Act 921)
- iii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.
- iv. The Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460).
- v. The Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763).
- vi. The Report of the Special Budget Committee on the 2022 Budget Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana.
- vii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year.
- viii. National Medium Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) for 2023 – 2026; and
- ix. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- x. Recommendations of the President of the Republic of Ghana on the 2023 Financial Estimates of Parliament.

## **3.0. MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of Parliament of Ghana is to undertake representational, deliberative, legislative, financial control, oversight, information dissemination and problem resolution functions supported by efficient, non-partisan, innovative and professional Parliamentary Service.

In pursuit of this mission, Parliament intends to implement a number of activities aimed at improving service delivery, promoting accountability and responsive governance. To this end, the following strategic goals would be pursued in 2023:

- a. Strengthen the capacity of Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service to introduce Private Member's Bills and effectively scrutinize Bills, Regulations, Treaties and other Agreements;
- b. Enhance Parliament-citizenry engagement;
- c. Strengthen mechanism for evidence-based decision-making;
- d. Strengthen the role of Parliament in the budget cycle, oversight of the economy and international financial agreements;
- e. Reform and restructure the Parliamentary administration for efficient resource utilization and service delivery;
- f. Ensure that Parliament has adequate infrastructure to sustain excellence in service delivery;
- g. Institutionalize reforms for the effectiveness and efficiency of Parliament;
- h. Strengthen the role of Parliament in regional and continental integration through strategic partnerships with other Parliaments.

#### **4.0. 2022 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

##### **4.1 Operational performance**

Parliament with support from the Parliamentary Service, undertook key activities towards the realisation of its core mandate of legislation, oversight, financial scrutiny and representation. Some of the activities implemented include the following:

#### **4.1.1. Legislative Business**

In accordance with Article 93(2) of the Constitution, Parliament continued to discharge its mandate through Plenary and Committee Sittings to consider and approve legislative proposals brought before it. In this regard, the House held a total of thirty-Seven (37) plenary sittings compared with seventy-five (75) Plenary Sittings held in 2021. Also, one hundred and thirty-three (133) Committee Meetings were held to consider papers covering various policy proposals that were laid before the house in 2022. Additionally, twelve (12) Bills, fifteen (15) International Agreements to finance major infrastructure projects, sixty-seven (67) Committee reports, forty-two (42) and two hundred and eighty-two(282) questions were asked and addressed by respective sector ministers as compared to one hundred and thirty-four (134) questions which were asked and answered in 2021

#### **4.1.2. Parliamentary Oversight**

In accordance with Articles 174, 178, 181, 184 and 179 of the Constitution, Parliament continued to exercise oversight over the use of state resources. In this direction, the Public Accounts Committee held eighty-three (83) public sittings to consider twenty one (21) reports of the Auditor-General for 2017, 2018 and 2019 in pursuant to Article 187. The Committee also laid 5 reports before the house.

The sub-committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises reviewed the financial statements and fiscal performance of 21 State-Owned Enterprises for the period 2018-2021. These enterprises include Volta River Authority, COCOBOD, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, Ghana Grid Company, and Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company.

#### **4.1.3. State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2022**

Pursuant to Article 67 of the Constitution, H.E. the president, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo delivered to the House, a message on the State of the Nation on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The address covered key thematic sectors of the economy, critical national issues including the state of the economy, infrastructure, the macroeconomic environment, health, education and environment.

#### **4.1.4. Parliamentary Infrastructure Project**

The Parliamentary Service Office Support Project (POSP), which will provide space for support and allied services, is 62 percent complete and expected to be completed in 2023. The e-Parliament project is also 95 percent complete.

### **4.2. 2022 Financial Performance**

For the performance of its functions, an amount of **Six Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢687,999,121)** was allocated to the Parliament of Ghana for its programmes and activities in the 2022 financial year. Out of this allocation, the sum of **Three Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢347,355,221)** representing 54.84% of the total allocation was released as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The unreleased balance therefore stands at **Three Hundred and Ten Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢310,664,277)** representing 45.15% of the 2022 allocation.

The 2022 Budget Allocation, releases and actual expenditure as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: 2022 Expenditure Outturn as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

Item of Expenditure	2022 Budget Appropriation (GHC)	Releases as at 30/11/22 (GHC)	Actual Exp. as at 30/11/22 (GHC)	Variance (GHC)	% Released (GHC)
Compensation	307,971,978	217,634,516	217,634,516	90,337,462	70.66
Goods and Services	280,027,143	141,383,798	115,742,718	138,643,345	50.48
Capex	100,000,000	18,334,530	13,977,987	81,665,470	18.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>687,999,121</b>	<b>377,352,844</b>	<b>347,355,221</b>	<b>310,646,277</b>	<b>54.84</b>

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy Statement of the Government of Ghana for the year 2023.

## **5.0. OUTLOOK FOR 2023**

### **5.1. Operational Outlook**

For the 2022 financial year, Parliament plans to continue the implementation of the ongoing programme aimed at improving the legislative, oversight and representational functions of the House and also promote improved service delivery to support the work of Parliament. To this end, Parliament plans to pursue the implementation of the following medium term strategic objectives as outlined in the Parliament Strategic Plan (2020-2024):

1. Reform and restructure the parliamentary administration for efficient resource utilization and service delivery;
2. Strengthen capacity to introduce Private Members' Bills and effectively scrutinise Bills, Regulations, Treaties, Conventions and other Agreements;
3. Enhance Parliament-citizenry engagement and public participation;
4. Strengthen mechanism for evidence-based decision-making;

5. Strengthen the scrutiny role of Parliament in the budget cycle, the economy, international business or economic transactions;
6. Strengthen the parliamentary administration for efficient resource utilisation and service delivery;
7. Introduce reforms for the effectiveness and efficiency of Parliament;
8. Ensure that Parliament has adequate infrastructure to sustain excellence in service delivery; and
9. Strengthen the role of Parliament in regional and international integration.

## 5.2. 2023 Budgetary Allocation

For the implementation of the above programmes and activities, the Parliament of Ghana has been allocated the sum of **Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢797,850,320)** in 2023 financial year.

The allocation in terms of economic classification and programme areas as well as sources of funding is provided in table 2 and 3 below:

**Table 2: 2023 budgetary allocation by economic classification**

<b>Economic classifications</b>	<b>GoG (GH¢)</b>	<b>Donor (GH¢)</b>	<b>Total (GH¢)</b>	<b>Per cent of total budget (%)</b>
Compensation	368,850,320	-	368,850,320	46
Goods and Services	319,000,000	-	319,000,000	40
Capital Expenditure	110,000,000	-	110,000,000	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>797,850,320</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>797,850,320</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sources: President Recommendation Letter on the 2023 Budgetary Allocation to Parliament and parliamentary Service.

**Table 3: 2023 Budgetary Allocation by Programmes**

<b>Economic classifications</b>	<b>GoG (GH¢)</b>	<b>Donor (GH¢)</b>	<b>Total (GH¢)</b>	<b>Per cent of total budget (%)</b>
Management and administration				
Parliamentary Business				
Information Support Services				
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>100%</b>

## **6.0. OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee having carefully scrutinized the Estimates of Parliament made the following observations:

### **6.1. President's recommendation on Parliament's Budgetary Requirement**

#### **Requirement**

The Committee noted that per a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2022, the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo has approved an amount of **Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢797,850,320)** for the services of Parliament and parliamentary Service for 2023 financial year.



The approved amount represents 91% of the budgetary requirements of Parliament and parliamentary Service submitted for to the President for approval in accordance with Section 15A of the Parliamentary Service Act 1993 (Act460) (as amended). 100% for the Compensation request, 93% for Goods and Services and 65% as Capex. Table 4 below provides the details in respect of the requirements of Parliament and Parliamentary Service and what was recommended by President.

**Table 4: 2023 Allocation compared to 2022 Allocation**

<b>Economic classifications</b>	<b>Budget Requirements (GH¢)</b>	<b>President's recommendation (GH¢)</b>	<b>Variance (GH¢)</b>	<b>Per cent Allocation (%)</b>
Compensation	368,850,320	368,850,320	-	100
Goods and Services	341,243,082	319,000,000	22,243,082	93
Capital Expenditure	170,263,251	110,000,000	60,263,251	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>880,356,653</b>	<b>797,850,320</b>	<b>82,506,333</b>	<b>91%</b>

Sources: President Recommendation Letter on the 2023 Budgetary Allocation to Parliament and parliamentary Service.

The President further recommends to Parliament and Parliamentary service to keep expenditure within the recommended ceilings in order to contain expenditure within the overall fiscal space for 2023.

## **6.2. Construction of Constituency Offices for Members of Parliament**

The Committee noted that Parliament could not commence the construction of the Members of Parliament Constituency Offices Project although budgetary allocation was made for the commencement of same in 2022 financial year budget.

In responding to the reasons for Parliament's inability to commence the construction of the Offices, The Clerk to Parliament indicated that

Members are yet to submit permits relating to the physical locations where they want the Offices to be constructed in the Constituencies. Another reason assigned was a standard architectural design which is yet to be approved by Members.

The Committee believes that successful execution of the project would facilitate the representational role of Members and Parliament. The Committee accordingly urges all Members to submit their location permits to the Office of the Clerk. The Committee further urges the Technical Committee working on the architectural design to fast-track the process to enable Parliament commence the Project as soon as possible.

### **6.3. Recruitment of Administrative Assistance for MPs**

The Committee was informed that adequate preparations has been made in the 2023 budget of Parliament and parliamentary Service to recruit Administrative Assistance for Members. The initiative is aimed at relieving the MPs Research Assistants of having to concentrate more of their time in undertaking secretarial and clerical works at the expense of research for their Members. The Committee urges Members to cooperate with the Parliamentary Service for successful recruitment exercise.

### **6.4. Strengthening of Research base of Parliament**

The importance of research support services in strengthening the oversight and law making functions of every Parliament cannot be underscored. Members of Parliament requires research support to effectively scrutinise Government policies, debate on pressing issues, and pass laws. The Committee was however not fully satisfied with the level of research support to Members of Parliament. Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the Clerk to Parliament to submit proposal

to the Leadership of Parliament and Rt Hon Speaker on how to improve on the level of research support services to Members.

#### **6.5. Beefing up Security in Parliament and MPs**

The Committee commended the Rt Hon Speaker and the Leadership of Parliament for the continuous efforts in improving the security situations in Ghana. The Committee however believe that the security situations in Parliament and Members of Parliament is still porous and fragile. The Committee accordingly urges the Rt Hon Speaker and the Leadership to allocate more resources in improving the security situations in the precincts of Parliament, and Members of Parliament in particular.

#### **6.6. Sanitation Conditions maintenance of Buildings facilities in Parliament**

The Committee expressed concern about the sanitation conditions and poor maintenance in the buildings within the precincts of Parliament. It was observed for instance that, in many occasions, the washrooms are stinky and without tissues. Broken and spoiled water taps are also sometimes left unattended to for so long. The Committee accordingly recommends to the Clerk to Parliament to improve on the supervision of the maintenance of sanitation and hygiene in the Parliament buildings.

#### **9.0. CONCLUSION**

The Committee has carefully scrutinise the Budget Estimates of Parliament and Parliamentary Service and is of the view that the programmes and policies planned for 2023 financial year will go a long way towards achieving medium to long term goals and objectives of Parliament.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the sum of **Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢797,850,320)** for the services of Parliament and parliamentary Service for the 2023 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.

  
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**HON. PATRICIA APPIAGYEI**  
**(VICE-CHAIRPERSON,**  
**SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)**

  
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**JOANA S.A ADJEI (MRS.)**  
**(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)**

**DECEMBER 2022**