

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

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES  
OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS  
DECEMBER 2013**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications for 2014 was referred to the Select Committee on Communications for consideration and report in accordance with Orders 140 (4) and 182 of the Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation to Parliament of the 2014 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government by the Minister of Finance (MoF), Mr. Seth Terkper, in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House. The Minister of Communications, Hon. Edward Omane Boamah, and a technical team from the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies, as well as officers from the MoF, assisted the Committee during its deliberations.

## **2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee consulted the following documents:

- The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- The Standing Orders of the House;
- The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year;
- The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 Financial Year;
- Report of the Ministry of Communications on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry of Communications for 2013 (January – October).

## **3.0 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry of Communications (MoC) has the core responsibility of initiating and developing national policies aimed at achieving cost effective information and communications infrastructure and services, for the enhancement and promotion of economic competitiveness in line with the policy guidelines of the Medium Term National Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF) 2014-2017.

### **3.0.1 Vision**

The vision of the Ministry of Communications (MoC) is to manage the convergence of communications and technologies to facilitate the promotion of a viable integrated national development process within a global setting.

### **3.0.2 Mission**

Ministry of Communications exists 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.

## **4.0 POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

### **4.0.1 Policies**

The Ministry's policy is based on the global commitments and benchmarks for the promotion of an Information Society and it aims at spreading the use of ICT as an enabler for wealth creation, promotion of national cohesion and growth as well as a tool for poverty reduction. Specifically, the policies aim at

- i. Promoting Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as tools that facilitate the production, transmission and processing of information for competitiveness in the global market place.
- ii. Providing an open, affordable, secure, globally available, seamless communications infrastructure and access to information for the country at all times – “Universal Access”.
- iii. Enhancing reliability and efficiency in the provision of communication services.
- iv. Facilitating the injection of new technological innovations into existing forms of economic activities in the micro, small and medium scale enterprises.
- v. Promoting the mechanism through which ICTs can lead to E-governance and better government services at all levels from the local to the national levels in health, education and environmental sectors.
- vi. Using the medium of ICTs access, including access to the internet to promote ‘e’-commerce to enable local business have access to the improved trends on global market in their import-export transactions and thereby reduce transaction cost of business and in the process improve internal efficiency.
- vii. Promoting aggressive private sector participation in telecom service delivery in a liberalised, regulatory and tax environment conducive for the attraction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and venture capital needed to revamp businesses.
- viii. Streamlining and updating the regulatory laws and regulations in conformity with changing industry trends to maximise benefits.
- ix. Using communications and meteorological forecasting through global positioning satellites to determine where, when and how to plant crops to promote increased agricultural productivity and food security.
- x. Promoting the requisite capacity building framework to support human resource development and specialised technical skills needed to meet the market growing needs ICT talent.
- xi. Building trust among the public, private and civil society to acknowledge the Internet as a potentially helpful tool rather than a cure-all tool.

#### **4.0.2 Policy Objectives**

The broad objectives are to develop policies, programmes, regulations and laws that will help integrate communications technologies and public information systems for national development, and also harness the full potential of resources for effective communication. The objectives include:

- i. To promote the development of communications infrastructure and services for national development;
- ii. To support the development of ICT Industry, Research, Development and networking among stakeholders;
- iii. To promote e-government and e-governance activities for transparency in Government business;

- iv. To promote and encourage the expansion of postal services for the social and economic development of the country;
- v. To facilitate the provision of quality Meteorological data and forecasts in support of weather sensitive sectors of the economy;
- vi. To invest and strengthen the institutional and human resource capacities for quality service delivery;
- vii. To review and develop policies that will enhance the self-financing regulatory bodies in a competitive ICT environment.

**4.0.3 To pursue these broad objectives the MoC has set specific tasks which include the following:**

- i. To facilitate the developments of nationwide communications and technologies infrastructure and services at minimum cost to promote accelerated growth in agriculture, industry, trade and services sectors to ensure poverty reduction.
- ii. To facilitate the interoperable application of computers and networks to improve the quality and efficiency of public services, to strengthen government information flow internally as to promote accountability and transparency in governance.
- iii. To review and develop policy regulations and laws that will enhance the efficient functioning and self-financed regulatory bodies dedicated to the sustenance of a pro-competitive postal, electronic telecommunications and ICTs environment.
- iv. To support the creation of a broad based communications and technological environment that will enhance the promotion of private sector investments and accelerate the vibrant development of IT or IT -Enabled Services industry.
- v. To strengthen the institutional and human resource capacities through training and development to enable the human capital adapt to new range of educational, legalistic and technical obligations contingent to the successful implementation of 'e' applications to development.
- vi. To develop and oversee policy and legislation that will promote hardware and software development and marketing at national and international levels.
- vii. To undertake sectoral and institutional education on HIV/AIDS and its implication on integrated national development.

**4.0.4 Strategies**

The Ministry will adopt the following strategies in furtherance of its objectives and policies: it will –

- i. Promote Ghana to become the leading international ICTs centre in the sub-Saharan region by facilitating the establishment of major network application centres and operational data centres for international companies in the sub-region to source information.
- ii. Encourage and facilitate the development of national broadband communications infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and build an Internet based economy.

- iii. Institute a transparent, pro-competitive and conducive regulatory regime to ensure fair, equitable and accelerated development of Ghana's ICTs industry.
- iv. Implementing the ICTs reform in such a manner that it will be viewed as a component of reform programmes of other sectors as to eliminate complexities which may lead to policy failures.
- v. Facilitate the acceleration of business formation in the ICTs and their related ventures leading to high turnouts of ICT literates engaged in a vibrant economy.
- vi. Promote business support systems in the public and private sectors, based on ICTs in areas such as Human Resource Development, Budget Management, facilities management, performance and reward management.
- vii. Promote research into general and applied technology while efforts are made using available data to develop new technologies.

## **5.0 KEY AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry of Communications oversees the development and implementation of policies and programmes related to the operational effectiveness of the communications sector. The organizations under the purview of the Ministry include:

- i. Ministry of Communications-General Administration (MoC)
- ii. Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet)
- iii. Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (KACE)
- iv. National Information and Technology Agency (NITA)
- v. Postal and Courier Service Regulatory Commission (PCSRC)
- vi. Data Protection Commission (DPC)
- vii. Ghana Post (GP)
- viii. Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES)
- ix. Ghana Multimedia Incubation Centre (GMIC)
- x. National Communication Authority (NCA)

Pursuant to the Ministry's mandate, these Agencies have the responsibility of handling specific operational functions of the sector, which have substantial impact on the private sector industry players and the nation as a whole.

## **6.0 2013 IN RETROSPECT AND OUTLOOK FOR 2014**

### **6.0.1 Utilisation of 2013 Budget Allocations**

For the implementation of its Strategies and Policies for the 2013 fiscal year, the Ministry of Communications was allocated the total sum of GH¢56,968,313 which was made up of GH¢9,998,894 from GoG, GH¢898,880 from Internally Generated Funds and GH¢46,070,539 from Donors.

**TABLE 1**

2013 ACTUAL EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, ITS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

ITEM (GOG)	BUDGET PROVISION (GH¢)	RELEASES (JAN-OCT) (GH¢)	BALANCE (GH¢)	PERCENTAGE %
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	5,240,896	6,151,557	-910,661	117.4%
GOODS & SERVICES	774,413	289,697	484,716	62.6%
ASSETS	3,983,585	-	3,983,585	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,998,894</b>	<b>6,441,254</b>	<b>3,557,640</b>	<b>64.4%</b>

IGF				
GOODS & SERVICES	898,880	1,372,883	-474,003	152.7%

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (DP)				
GOODS & SERVICES	9,214,108	-	9,214,108	0%
ASSETS	36,856,431	32,082,972	4,773,459	87.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,070,539</b>	<b>32,082,972</b>	<b>13,987,567</b>	<b>69.6%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>56,968,313</b>	<b>39,897,109</b>	<b>17,071,204</b>	<b>70%</b>

In 2013 the Ministry continued to deliver support services for the implementation of sector-related programmes, in accordance with its main functions. Accordingly, the Ministry has finalised the comprehensive review of the ICT Policy for Accelerated Development (ICT4AD) to respond to global technological requirements. In addition to ICT development, the new policy also embodies broadband, cyber security, ICT, environment and climate change, and geo-information system.

### 6.0.2 ICT Capacity Development

The Ministry continues to provide the needed support to make every citizen ICT literate. In line with this policy, during the period under review the Ghana-Indian Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence (KACE) in ICT trained students in software, security and networking courses. They were trained in the following courses –

- Eighty-five (85) in Foundations of Software Development (FSD)

- Seven (7) in Wireless and Mobile Computing (WiMC)
- One hundred and sixty-two (162) in the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Professional programme.
- Nineteen (19) in Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)
- Seventy-five (75) students in the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) programme.
- Nine (9) students were trained in Java, Thirteen (13) in Linux Administration, Thirty-four (34) in Web Application development (WAD), Thirty-two (32) in FOSS, Thirty-five (35) in Drupal, Five (5) in Oracle, and Sixteen (16) in Mobile Application Development (MAD).
- Forty (40) former Members of Parliament were trained in Basic ICT skills and End user Social Media, while Four hundred and sixty-five (465) people from the private sector were trained in SPSS Research and Social Media.
- The Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) undertook universal access projects and programmes including provision of Internet connectivity for 200 institutions and installation of rural telephony to 10 communities.
- Two ICT centres were setup at Ghana Fire Service Headquarters and Training School; also capacity building activities were facilitated for 42 Nursing Training Schools, 32 Prison Instructors, 2 Fire Officers, 20 Community Information Centre (CIC) managers, 10 Library ICT Coordinators and 37 ICT teachers. 4000 desktop and 2000 laptop computers were distributed. This was a “Training of Trainers” programme and so the teams trained would in turn train the staff of their respective institutions.

In 2014 The Ministry through its agencies will support the development and maintenance of an educational portal where teachers, students, parents and researchers can have access to good practice lesson plans, curricula content, teaching and learning aids, on-line advice and research. The project will further provide connectivity to the least developed 200 secondary schools in the country.

### **6.0.3 Eastern Corridor Fibre Optic Backbone Network**

The official commencement of the construction of the Eastern Corridor optic fibre network was launched on 29th May 2013 in Wamale near Tamale. So far 107km of fibre out of the 780km stretch has been laid covering sections of Bawku to Gushiegu as well as Gushiegu to Yendi. Additionally Seven (7) of the Nine (9) Points of Presence (PoPs) for the entire project has been completed.

The 120 beneficiary towns also include: Garu, Seshie, Kugurago, Nakpanduri, Gbintri, Katani, Zanteli, Gushiegu, Nawuni, Sakpeigu, Yendi, Makayili, Nakpachei, Bokpaba, Bimbila, Damanko, Kpasa, Menuso-Nkwanta, Dodi-Pepesu, Kadjebi, Jasikan, Hohoe, Golokwati-Biakpa, e.t.c.

The Ministry will continue to monitor the construction of the project for its completion by July 2014. In this regard, the Ministry will pursue the completion of the remaining 673km of the Eastern Corridor fibre optic network. In addition, the two outstanding Points of Presence will also be completed within the same period.

#### **6.0.4 Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Network**

The Government of Ghana is pursuing the migration from analogue television broadcasting to digital terrestrial television broadcasting by December 2014 ahead of the international deadline of 17 June 2015 for the cessation of international protection for analogue terrestrial broadcasting transmissions.

The project has received Cabinet approval for the sourcing of the loan from the EXIM Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance has subsequently submitted all documentation to EXIM Bank for the loan agreement.

In 2014, the loan agreement and the contract would be brought before Parliament for consideration and approval.

The DTT network project will also commence in 2014. As part of the sensitization programme therefore, the Ministry toured all the TV stations, in Accra, in October 2013 to address their concerns and also inform them of the status of the implementation. In addition to this Public Education and Sensitization Workshops will be carried out for TV vendors, consumers and installers of decoders.

#### **6.0.5 Postal and Courier Services**

The Postal and Courier Services Regulations 2013, L.I 2205, was laid in Parliament on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and matured, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013, after the mandatory twenty-one sitting days required by Article 11 (7) of the Constitution of Ghana. In 2014 Four (4) sensitization workshops will be held to create awareness about these Regulations and their impact on the sector.

The Commission intensified its search for unlicensed operators, culminating in a total of 50 operating licenses issued from January to October 2013, comprising 46 renewed licenses and 4 newly-licensed operators. The number of licensed operators in the Commission's register is 65. Two are postal operators and 63 private courier operators.

The Commission, through its regulatory oversight and monitoring exercises, also assisted Ghana Post to improve the quality of its universal service. Ghana Post was able to meet local transmission time target of 24 hours in the Greater Accra, Eastern and Ashanti Regions of Ghana by the end of the Second Quarter of 2013. Ghana Post exceeded its South – South Inter-Sectoral Transmission Times, while meeting its South-Middle and North- South targets.

In 2014, the Commission will embark on regular inspections, monitoring exercises and end-to-end measurements of mail transmission times to attain an average national mail delivery target of 72 hours. The Commission will also intensify its operations in the three (3) Regions where it has liaison offices (Northern, Ashanti and Western). This is in a bid to increase the internally-generated revenue from licensing fees by 20% of the 2013 figures.

The Commission will enhance its human resource capacity for the delivery of efficient regulatory services in Ghana by increasing the staff strength from 8 to 17 by 31st December 2014.

#### **6.0.6 Girls in ICT Programme / Child Online Protection (COP)**

For 2013, about 200 girls from schools in deprived as well as urban poor areas in Accra were brought together and sensitized on the use of ICT tools and equipment. The highpoint of the programme was the celebration of the Girls in ICT Day held on 25th April 2013 at the Physicians and Surgeons Centre. 500



school girls and mentors participated to share their experiences on the use of ICT tools and equipment. There was also an awareness creation on Child Online Protection.

The Ministry in 2014 will continue to promote the celebration of “Girls in ICT” programme to provide the platform for as many girls as possible to interact with mentors within the ICT sector and also extend it to other Regions to generate the interest of Girls in technology, computer science, new communication media and engineering, and offer them opportunities to choose careers in the area of ICT.

In recognition of the important role the Internet is playing in the provision of quality education for children, the Ministry will collaborate with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO), the Ghana Police Service, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the National Communications Authority to continue the COP initiative, as a platform to raise awareness about child online safety issues. In this regard, programmes will be organized for Teachers, Girls, Queen Mothers, Parents and Opinion Leaders.

### **6.0.7 Broadband Development**

The Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) submarine cable system was inaugurated in Accra, as the fifth (5th) submarine cable by Expresso which contributes 5.1 terabits. This brings the national submarine cable capacity to a total of 12.3 terabits. The addition of ACE to the existing submarine cables that is WACS, Glo-1, MainOne and SAT-3 has introduced competition into the industry and driven down bandwidth cost in Ghana. This has opened the shores of Ghana for attracting Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) businesses into Ghana to offer employment to our people.

In order to enhance the usage of ICT applications, the Ministry will collaborate with the Service Providers in 2014 to achieve lower bandwidth costs.

### **6.0.8 Mobile Broadband**

On the issue of mobile broadband, under the e-Government Platform Project 30 existing World Wide Interoperability Microwave Access (WIMAX) sites have been upgraded to Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology.

In 2014, 90 more sites will be constructed to enable the deployment of advanced ICT Applications in education, health, commerce, Open Government and other business opportunities.

### **6.0.9 Phase II of Dedicated Secured Communications System for Ghana’s Public Administration and Emergency Services**

Parliament has given approval for the implementation of the phase II of the Global Open Trunking Architecture (GOTA) and the kick-off meeting has since been held among stakeholders.

Under the Phase II of the Global Open Trunking Architecture (GOTA) communication network, 270 base stations will be constructed and provision has been made for 200,000 handsets. This is expected to enhance the coverage performance of the existing areas and also provide a seamless service all over the country. Upper East, Upper West, Northern and Brong Ahafo Regions will be among the beneficiaries.

Similarly, more applications such as mobile video monitor for traffic policing, accident/disaster rescue, HD picture/video transfer and remote education and health care will be enhanced.

#### **6.0.10 Meteorological Services**

The Ghana Meteorological Agency hosted the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Training course on the use of satellite products for agro-meteorological applications from 10th to 14th June 2013 on behalf of the WMO. The agency also employed additional staff in 2013.

In 2014, Ghana Meteorological Agency will pursue the installation of 100 Automatic Weather Systems to improve its meteorological instrument by 40 per cent.

#### **6.0.11 Telephone Subscription**

The telecommunications sector continued to register impressive growth rate in subscription. The total telephone subscription for both cellular and fixed lines as at August 2013, stood at 27,803,710 compared to 25,158,999 for the same period in 2012. A total of 67 licenses and authorisations were granted by the National Communications Authority (NCA) to various communications service providers for the provision of communications services throughout the country.

In 2014, the National Telecom Policy will be reviewed to reflect the current global trends to improve the performance of the sector.

#### **6.0.12 Deployment of Tertiary Institutions Access Network Programme**

The Ministry has completed a comprehensive study to assess the infrastructure, connectivity and applications requirement of some tertiary institutions. Also advertisements have been placed in the national dailies to select vendors for the establishment of the network in 8 selected tertiary institutions.

These are Sunyani Polytechnic; St. Theresa's Training College, Hohoe; University for Development Studies; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology; University of Ghana; University of Cape Coast; University College of Education, Winneba; and OLA College of Education, Cape Coast.

The evaluation of received tenders would be conducted and Contract awarded for the commencement of the network in the 8 selected tertiary institutions in 2014.

#### **6.0.13 Data Protection Commission**

The Commission engaged stakeholders in the industry to help them streamline their data protection requirements in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 2012. The Board also approved an organizational structure and job description for the Commission which has been submitted to the Public Service Commission for consideration.

The Ministry will pursue the establishment of a Cost Centre for the Data Protection Commission to facilitate the implementation of their programmes.

The Commission will develop and launch its website in 2014 to enhance its presence and Sensitization workshops will be organized to create public awareness on the operations of the Commission.

#### **6.0.14 E-Parliamentary System**

The Ministry will support the legislature to implement the e-parliamentary System, under which members will be able to file their queries to the Executive online, leading to speedy and paperless flow of information. Other important features of the initiative will be the digitization of the Parliamentary library.

It is expected that the installation of the parliamentary solution will commence in March 2014 and completed by December 2014.

#### **6.0.15 E-Justice**

The Ministry of Communications, in collaboration with the Judicial Service, has initiated a process to develop an e-Justice System aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of justice delivery in Ghana.

The design of the functional, technical and business model of the eJustice system, based on modern technology and requirement of the Ghana Judicial Service, including recording and transcription facilities in consultation with Judicial Service and NITA has been completed. A Draft bidding document has also been prepared for the selection of a vendor.

The installation of the eJustice system will commence in 2014 under which 8 courts, including the Supreme Court, the Appeal Court/Civil Section and two Commercial Courts will be fully automated and funded under the eTransform project.

#### **6.0.16 E-Immigration System Installation**

The Ministry is collaborating with the Ghana Immigration Service to monitor the implementation of an integrated e-Immigration system, capable of regulating entry into and exit from Ghana by providing a management system for permit processing that will meet the current and future needs of the Ghana Immigration Service, and also improve the quality of services offered to the public. This, among other things will help regulate and monitor the activities of foreigners in relation to employment and residence. The system will be installed at KIA, GIS Headquarters, Tema and Takoradi Harbours, Elubo, Aflao and Paga land borders and will be completed by July 2014.

#### **6.0.17 E-Government Infrastructure**

The Network and the Pilot Data Centre project of the Ministry of Communications is completed and already in operation. All 23 Ministries and 75 agencies were connected to the Network and the Pilot Data Centre in addition to all the Regional Coordinating Councils. Furthermore, the rollout of the e-Government Infrastructure is being extended to cover all the districts. It has already deployed 30 New Base Stations, expanded the optic fibre in Accra to about 70% and rolled out a Secondary Data Center in Kumasi. The network will be completed in 2014

#### **6.0.18 E-Services Platform**

E-Services for Web Content Management, e-Forms and Document Work Flow and online Payments were developed on a pilot basis as a shared service for 11 MDAs, comprising; Passport Office, DVLA, FDB, Ghana Tourist Authority, Criminal Investigation Department, Ghana Police, Births and Deaths Registry, AMA, NIA, NCA and Minerals Commission.

The pilot e-Payments/e-Commerce platform was developed as a shared service for the 11 selected MDAs and the initial tests on functionality were positive. The Controller and Accountants General's Department has initiated processes to open a pool account for processing Visa and e-Transaction payments. The integration of the Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement System (GhIPSS) payment switch infrastructure is also on-going.

In 2014, ten (10) more Agencies will be connected to the network and the services and applications will also be extended.

#### **6.0.19 Cyber Security**

The Ministry commenced the re-delegation of Ghana's Internet Domain namespace (.gh). The Ministry currently has one Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and has taken delivery of a switch for an additional IXP. The framework to establish Computer Emergency Response System Team (CERT) with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to strengthen the nation's ability to manage cyber security threats was concluded.

The Ministry will facilitate the establishment of the Computer Emergency Response System Team (CERT) to strengthen the nation's ability to manage cyber security threats in 2014.

#### **6.0.20 Automation of Ghana Revenue Authority and Registrar General's Department**

In order to enhance revenue mobilization and ensure efficient tax collection systems, an integrated Tax Administration and Business Registration System is being implemented under the e-Ghana Project to improve the operations of the Ghana Revenue Authority and Registrar General's Department. The project which is at the Operational Acceptance Stage is being implemented under Public Private Partnership arrangement.

The Ministry, in 2014, will under the Ghana e-Government Project roll out the Total Revenue Integrated Processing System to 10 Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) offices in Accra and also launch the GRA Portal. Further, the Government e-Registration System will be rolled out to 3 regional sites namely: Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi and Tamale.

#### **6.0.21 National Electronic ID System**

As part of the e-transform project, the Ministry in collaboration with the National Identification Authority has secured approval from the World Bank to implement the National Electronic ID System in 2014. The project will support the distribution of 12 million biometric cards, including 3 million cards already printed and 9 million cards to be printed once citizen data is confirmed.

To improve the speed and reduce the cost of distribution of cards, project funds will be used to finance the deployment of mobile registration workstations, mobile verification systems and related software. The project will also support an integrated solution that ensures that the new Ghana ID cards meet international standards.

#### **6.0.22 Digitization of Records**

The project is meant to digitize the records of key user agencies such as Births and Deaths Registry, Registrar General's Department, Ghana Revenue Authority, and Ghana Immigration Service. The

digitization programme offers unique employment opportunities for the youth to scan, index, and electronically manage paper records, and set up searchable and easy-to-use electronic databases.

In 2014, 11million records at Births and Deaths will be extracted and archived. 20million records at the Registrar General's Department will also be digitized.

#### **6.0.23 Integrated e-Health System**

The Ministry through NITA has installed Server equipment at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Zebilla District Hospital and Wa Regional Hospital. Additionally, 220 Computers and 46 scanners have been distributed to the 3 Hospitals. The blueprint on the e-Health system for the 3 hospitals has been developed for implementation.

In 2014, configuration of the e-Health system will be completed. IT Literacy training on the e-Health application will be conducted. Sensitization workshops on the e-Health system will be organized.

#### **6.0.24 Business Process Outsourcing Centre (BPO)**

The Ministry has secured additional US\$3.8million funding from the Rockefeller Foundation to top up the World Bank funding of US\$5million to refurbish the old PWD warehouses near Kwame Nkrumah Circle-Accra, into a Grade A facility. Refurbishment works will be completed by August 2014.

### **7.0 2014 BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS**

To ensure that the above activities are adequately implemented, a total of **GHC 735,288,999.00** was budgeted for. **GH¢ 11,214,382** from GoG, **GHC723,807,000.00** of Donor Support, and amount of and **GH¢ 1,780,220.00** being IGF.

The total amount allocated to the whole sector however, is in the amount of **GH¢ 93,988,899.00**. The sources are –

<b>GoG</b>	–	<b>GH¢ 11,214,382.00</b>
<b>IGF</b>	–	<b>GH¢ 1,780,220.00</b>
<b>Development Partners</b>	–	<b>GH¢ 80,994,297.00</b>

This is allocated to the various headings as follows:

<b>Employee Compensation</b>	–	<b>GH¢ 9,241,597.00</b>
<b>Goods &amp; Services</b>	–	<b>GH¢18,511,306.00</b>
<b>Assets (Capital Expenditure)</b>	–	<b>GH¢66,235,996.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	–	<b><u>GH¢ 93,988,899.00</u></b>

## **8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.0.1 Delayed Releases**

The Committee noted that as always, the release of funds for the Ministry's activities in 2013 were delayed. This made it difficult for the Ministry to keep to timelines set for various projects and programmes. The Committee hopes that this year, the Ministry of Finance would make more effort to release funds meant for critical activities, on time, so as to ensure value-for-money and efficiency in the Ministry's activities.

### **8.0.2 Drastic reduction in budgetary requests**

Though the Ministry of Communications requested a total of **GHC 735,288,999.00** for its activities, only **GH¢ 93,988,899.00** was approved. This, the Committee acknowledged, would mean that a number of planned programs and projects, especially those that depend on GoG funding may not be undertaken. The Committee therefore prays that should any extra funds become available during the year, the MOFEP would provide the funds necessary for the activities of the Ministry of Communications.

### **8.0.3 Amendment of GMet Act**

The Committee enquired why the Ministry has delayed in bringing the Amendments to 2004 (ACT 682) to the House. Section 12(2) of the Act is to be amended to ensure that GMet is mandated to charge any organization that uses its services. Hitherto, some organizations, especially the Ghana Airport Company have completely refused to pay GMet for its services and allude to the fact that the law, as it currently is, is not clear on the matter. The Committee was informed that the Draft was presented to Cabinet earlier on and is currently being fine-tuned before being brought to the House.

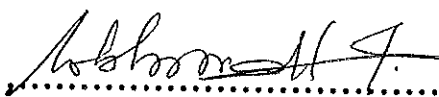
### **8.0.4 A more independent NITA**

The Committee suggested that to encourage NITA's independence, steps must be taken to help the outfit generate funds internally. This can be achieved by ensuring that all the MDAs that use NITA's services pay a fee.

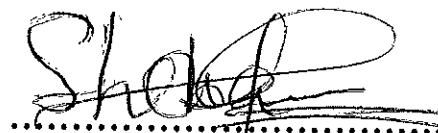
## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

In the light of the foregoing, the Committee recommends that the House approve the total sum of **GH¢ 93,988,899.00** made up of **GH¢ 11,214,382.00** from GoG, **GH¢ 1,780,220.00** from Internally Generated Funds, and **GH¢ 80,994,297.00** from Development Partners, for the implementation of the Strategies and Policies of the Ministry of Communications for the 2014 Financial Year.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**



**HON. HEROD COBBINA  
CHAIRMAN**

  
.....  
**SHEBA NANA AFRIYIE OSEI  
CLERK**