

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

ON THE

**2014 PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

(MESTI)

12TH DECEMBER, 2013

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth E. Tekper presented to Parliament, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2014 Financial Year on Tuesday, 19th November, 2013 in accordance with Article 179 (1) of the Constitution. Pursuant to Orders 140(4) and 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Tuesday, 10th December, 2013 and considered the Estimates. The Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Joe Oteng Adjei and his technical team were in attendance to assist the Committee in the consideration of the estimates. The Committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the under-listed documents during its deliberations on the Estimates:

- i. the 1992 Constitution
- ii. the Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 financial year;
- iv. the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490);
- v. the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Act, 1996 (Act 521);
- vi. the Atomic Energy Commission Act, 2000 (Act 588);
- vii. the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 financial year;
- viii. the Report of the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology on the 2013 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation.

4.0 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)

4.1 Mission Statement

MESTI exists to promote sustainable development by deepening and strengthening market driven Research & Development for sound Environmental Governance, Science, Technology and Innovation through intensive awareness creation, collaboration and partnership.

The Vision of the Ministry is to attain sustainable development through the utilization of Science, Technology and Innovation for wealth creation and sound environmental governance in a modern and competitive economy.

4.2.1 Policy Objectives of the Ministry

To achieve its goal of ensuring accelerated socio-economic development of the nation through the formulation of sound policies and a regulatory frame work, to promote the use of appropriate environmentally friendly, scientific and technological practices, the Ministry would pursue the following policy objectives:

- Promote the application of Science, Technology and Innovation in all sectors of the economy
- Strengthen the appropriate institutional framework to promote the development of science and technology research
- Promote sustainable extraction and use of mineral resources
- Promote green economy
- Reduce loss of biodiversity
- Reduce vulnerability of coastal communities
- Manage waste, reduce pollution and noise
- Reduce pollution and poor sanitation in the coastal areas
- Enhance capacity to adapt to climate change impacts
- Mitigate the impacts of climate variability and change
- Use Low Carbon Growth (LCG) as a specific approach to integrate the link between climate and development; and
- Streamline spatial/land use planning system in Ghana

4.3 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY

The following are the key agencies under the Ministry:

- i. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ii. Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)
- iii. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and
- iv. Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)

5.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE 2013 BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS

5.1. Table 1: Status of 2013 Budget Implementation as at September, 2013

Items of Expenditure	Approved Budget GH¢	Amounts Released/ Generated GH¢	Absolute %	Variance (Approved-Released) GH¢
COMPENSATION	63,226,169	135,016,327	214	-71,790,158
GOODS & SERVICES	21,002,769	18,606,306	88	2,396,463
ASSETS	1,761,363	0	0	1,761,363
TOTAL GOG	85,990,301	153,622,633		- 67,632,332
IGF	23,885,850	12,804,837	54	11,081,013
NREG	6,905,078	5,905,078	86	1,000,000
SIP	13,000,000	13,000,000	100	0
ABFA	300,000	0	0	300,000
DONOR	13,363,942	6,422,030	48	6,941,912
TOTAL OTHER	57,454,870	38,131,945		19,322,925
GRAND TOTAL	142,445,171	191,754,578		- 48,309,407

The table above indicates the total releases made to MESTI in 2013. Even though the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies (MDA's) did not receive the expected amount, they were able to undertake the following major programs and activities during the year:

6.0 MESTI (Headquarters)

a. *Policy on the use of Local Building Materials in the Construction Industry*

The construction of the National Local Material Resource Training Center was completed and launched at the CSIR-BRRI and a sensitization seminar and training session on the use of local building materials was organized for 100 Architects and 50 masons.

b. *The Better Ghana ICT Project*

40,000 laptop computers were distributed to upgrade the ICT laboratories of about 800 Senior High, Technical and Vocational Schools accredited by the Ghana Education Service (GES).

c. *Ghana Skills and Technology Development Project*

- i. 5 - Research Institutions have been selected and a grant of USD 500,000 was provided to implement the market-oriented research and technology transfer programmes.
- ii. Consultants were also procured to design and prepare Bill of Quantities for the construction of the 3 storey Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) building.

5.3 Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- a. CSIR has developed and released four early maturing and Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa in commercial quantities. Other varieties have been identified and accepted by farmers as high yielding, drought tolerant and striga tolerant which would and will be nominated as maize candidate to the National Varietal Release Committee.
- b. The Council undertook studies on the effect of climate change on forest dependent livelihoods towards the Sustainable Development and Utilization of Bamboo Species in Ghana.
- c. CSIR also undertook an outreach program in two farming communities in the Ga Adangbe District (Sege Area) and organized a demonstrations and training were carried out to introduce Seventy-four (74) farmers to basic unit operations for versatility in domestic cooking of sweet potato and other improved varieties for improved nutrition, using for example a grater.
- d. Finally, the Council was also migrated unto the Single Spine Salary Structure which resulted in over 200% increment in the amount released to the Council under the Compensation Vote for the 2013 financial year.

5.4 Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)

- a. To integrate nuclear power into the Country's energy mix:
 - i. A Nuclear Regulatory Authority Bill (NRA) has been drafted and submitted to Cabinet for approval to develop a legal framework for Ghana's nuclear power programme.
 - ii. A MoU between Ghana and Russia was signed on the construction of a nuclear power plant in Ghana and peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy in the country.

- iii. Preliminary studies were carried to zone out areas for the determination sites for nuclear power plant operation to determine suitable sites for nuclear power plant operation in Ghana.
- b. To ensure that the telecommunication industry operate within acceptable international standards, the Commission:
 - i. carried out safety assessment on eighty (80) communication and radio base stations (erected masts)
 - ii. the Commission also developed guidelines for installation of mobile phone masts
- c. Nuclear safety and security in the country achieved
 - i. With collaboration between the Commission and Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS), transportation of radiation devices and radioactive materials in and out of the ports of the country are controlled.
 - ii. One Thousand, Five Hundred (1,500) workers were also monitored against over exposure to radioactive materials.

5.5 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

a. Ghana Environmental Management Programme (GEMP)

The GEMP, which has the objective to reverse loss of soil fertility, land degradation and erosion, as well as loss of vegetative land-cover, has implemented Seventy-four (74) sub-projects to improve community livelihoods in the (3) Northern Regions of Ghana.

b. Sustainable Land and Water Management Project (SLWMP)

In order to promote and up-scale improved SLWM practices within selected communities in the Upper East and Upper West regions towards enhancing agricultural productivity and restoring ecosystem integrity, fourteen (14) community watershed and management plans were finalized and a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based monitoring and evaluation system was also developed.

c. Environmental Performance Rating and Disclosure (Akoben Programme)

Under the AKOBEN programme, which complements the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and serves as a monitoring and verification programme to ensure that companies follow environmental regulations on a continual basis, the EPA enlisted fifty (50) new companies in the rating program and also conducted training programs for the new companies.

d. Environmental Quality

The Agency, as a major stakeholder in the implementation of bus rapid transit (BRT) has undertaken indicators for particulate matter (PM_{10}) at all the five (5) monitoring stations located along the 30km BRT route. The stations include: Graphic Road, Kaneshie First Light, Mallam Junction, Weija and Kasoa.

5.6 Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD)

In order to restore spatial/land use planning system in Ghana,

- i. 40 officers (out of 100 targeted) have been trained in GIS applications for property tax administration, street addressing and building permitting. This is expected to ensure efficiency in development control, increase Internally Generated Fund (IGF) of the MMDA and promote orderly development.
- ii. 2 - Planning Schemes were prepared for the 80MW Power Plant enclave in Anochie, Ellembele District. This is expected to guide spatial location of investments and coordinate sectorial initiatives in the area.

- iii. A site has been identified for Land Use Planning Scheme to cover the proposed 400MW solar energy facility at Bodi, Kakease-Bole. This is expected to help align and coordinate all projects in the area and increase competitiveness.
- iv. Implementation of Street Addressing Projects completed in Prestea Huni Valley, Tarkwa Nsuaem, Bibiani/Ahwiaso/Bekwai and Sefwi-Wiawso.

6.0 2014 BUDGETARY ESTIMATES

A sum total of **Two Hundred and Forty - Five Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty- Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢245,955,307.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the implementation of its programmes and activities for the 2014 financial year. Below is a breakdown of the allocation by sources of fund:

TABLE 2: 2014 Budgetary Allocation (Item based)

EXPENDITURE ITEM	GoG (GH¢)	ABFA (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	External/ Donor	TOTAL (GH¢)
COMPENSATION	147,319,619	-	-	-	147,319,619
GOODS & SERVICES	12,501,300	-	19,460,658	7,229,196	39,191,154
CAPEX	2,194,795	-	23,681,062	33,568,677	59,444,534
TOTAL	162,015,714	-	43,141,720	40,797,873	245,955,307

TABLE 3: 2014 Budgetary Allocations (Programme Based)

PROGRAMME	GoG (GH¢)	IGF (GH¢)	ABFA	DONOR (GH¢)	TOTAL (GH¢)
MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION	7,616,690	-	-	38,047,873	45,664,563
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	135,439,658	7,562,660	-	-	143,002,318
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MANAGEMENT	5,444,602	35,579,060	-	2,750,000	43,773,662
SPATIAL PLANNING & HUMAN SETTLEMENT	13,514,764	-	-	-	13,514,764
TOTAL	62,015,714	43,141,720	-	40,797,873	245,955,307

7.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE 2014 FINANCIAL YEAR

MESTI has outlined a number of programmes and activities to be implemented in the 2014 financial year. Among these are the following:

- Continue the Implementation of Phase II of the Action plan for the utilization of local building materials in construction industry and also continue the procurement and distribution of 50,000 laptops to ICT laboratories of GES accredited SHS and individual first year students in public tertiary institutions.

- Select and disburse bursaries to 7000 MASTESS beneficiaries in 2014/2015 academic year and re-launch, raise funds and operationalise the STI Fund and also organize 2nd Ghana Science Congress.
- Promote the cultivation of local high yield rice e.g. “Sika Mo” and “Gbewaa” aromatic/perfumed rice through provision of breeder, foundation and certified seed.
- Commence procurement procedures for geological equipment to be used for siting activities to establish suitable areas along the coast.
- Continue public education through the mass media to allay fears and anxiety on nuclear power utilization.
- In the ensuing year, the cost benefits of nuclear power systems in Ghana as well as possible financing schemes for the nuclear power project will be determined by December 2014.
- Monitor 1000 base stations and undertake safety assessment of at least 400 new installations by December 2014.
- Undertake 2 Public awareness and education programmes on urban planning and permitting. It is expected that the compliance rate of the public towards orderly development will be increased.
- Monitor and analyse air quality indicators namely PM₁₀, NO₂, SO₂ and Ozone as well as effluent from industries/hotels in the Accra-Tema Metropolis. This will enable the EPA to establish the relevant environmental indicators to enable effective compliance monitoring of activities of manufacturing industries and hotels within the 2 metropolitan areas.
- Decentralise operations of the EPA in the districts to ensure that sound environmental practices such as illegal mining, land degradation, deforestation

and waste and sanitation issues are well coordinated in conjunction with the District Assemblies.

- Undertake the development of a comprehensive environmental education strategy for Ghana. This is necessary in the light of emerging issues in environmental education and strategies of integrating environmental education into development projects as well as integration into the curriculum of schools.

9.0 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

i. Budgetary allocations for the 2013 financial year

The Committee observed an over-run of 214% of compensation allocation as at September, 2013. However, this over-run was as a result of the migration of CSIR unto the single spine salary structure during the year under review. The Committee expects that the remaining amount for the Goods and Services expenditure would be released timeously to enable the Ministry complete its target by the end of the year.

- ii. The Committee was impressed with the releases under the Social Intervention Programmes (SIP) expenditure item. It was observed that the entire approved amount had been released as at September, 2013 to enable the Ministry undertake its programmes under SIP. However, the Committee would urge the Ministry to complete its impact assessment review to ensure that the expected results are achieved.
- iii. It was further observed that under Assets Expenditure Item, no amount of money was released to the Ministry and this impacted negatively on the performance of some agencies like TCPD which does not have adequate staff, office accommodation and the needed logistics to carry out its functions.

iv. Again the Committee noted that, in 2013 no releases were made under the ABFA and in 2014 no allocation has been provided for the Ministry under ABFA. The concern of the Committee is that, if the nation wants to use Applied Science, Research and Development as a tool for national development, then there is the need to apply part of the oil revenue to support the programmes of the Ministry and would recommend to MOF to resource MESTI to be very effective in the discharge of its mandate.

v. **Office Space for Town and Country Planning Dept. (TCPD)**

The Committee was informed that the office space which accommodates the TCPD is scattered and this has resulted in the lack of proper supervision of officers and adherence to strict discipline.

Again, the Committee further observed that the TCPD generates funds internally through the sale of permits and the processing of same. However, the funds generated from these activities are not retained by the Department rather they are consolidated into the District Assembly Internally Generated Fund (IGF) for the use of the Assemblies.

The Committee once again impressed on the Department to take the needed steps to initiate the appropriate legislation to empower the Department to retain a percentage of its IGF to support its programmes and activities.

iii. **The Better Ghana ICT Project**

The Committee was informed that the Ministry has so far distributed 90,000 laptop computers to some individuals and other GES accredited SHS, Vocational and Technical Educational Institutions nationwide since the policy was introduced in 2012. This is made up of 50,000 distributed in 2012 and 40,000 in 2013. The Committee has requested the Minister to provide the House with the full details of the distribution of these laptop computers.

The Ministry would procure and distribute additional 50,000 laptop computers for distribution to continue the policy in 2014.

iv. **Commercialization of products from CSIR**

The Committee further observed that some of the agencies under MESTI such as CSIR undertake a number of research activities which has resulted in outcomes that would help develop the nation's economic growth, especially the agricultural sector.

The Council has also developed and produced quality products such as aromatic/perfumed rice through provision of breeder, foundation and certified seed. However, the Council is unable to effectively package and commercialize its products both locally and internationally.

The Committee recommends that, the Council should aggressively take steps which would enable them commercialise their research findings and products which would go a long way in increasing their internally generated fund to support their programmes and activities.

- v. Finally, the Committee noted that the delays in the release of funds, inadequate staff, logistics, office space and funds for monitoring and reporting affected the delivery of the Ministry as a whole in the 2013 financial year.

The Committee urges the MOF to ensure that funds are released timeously to enable the Ministry undertake its programmes and activities as scheduled. Also the financial clearance should be given to enable the Ministry engage the services of additional staff.


10.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee respectfully request this Honourable House to reflect on the rate at which the world is developing in terms of science and technology, agriculture and food production, sanitation and environmental management, response to climate change, architecture, hospitality, education, medicine and politics. Ghana cannot afford to relent in its efforts in finding a more sustainable solution and plan to meet these pressing issues.


However, having thoroughly examined the 2014 Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry, it has been realized that the Ministry's may be constrained by several challenges including inadequate funding, delays in the release of funds, lack of qualified personnel, lack of logistics, office space and inadequate resources for monitoring and reporting.

Finally, the Committee recommends that this Honourable House approves an amount of **Two Hundred and Forty - Five Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty - Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢245,955,307.00)** for the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the 2014 Financial Year Ending 31st December.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. EDEM-ASIMAH
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ENVIROMENT, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



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JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS)
COMMITTEE CLERK

12TH DECEMBER, 2013.