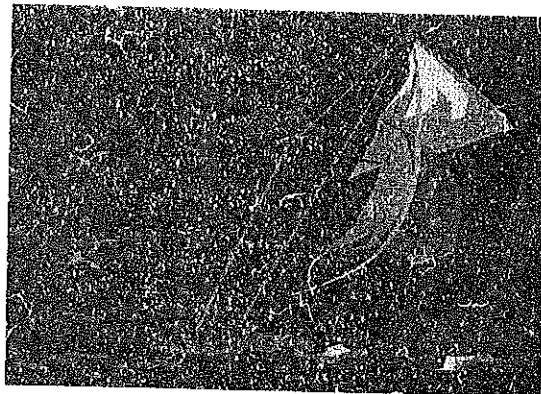


IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH  
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA

*REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
AGRICULTURE AND COCOA AFFAIRS*

ON THE



ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FISHERIES

10TH DECEMBER, 2007

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AGRICULTURE AND COCOA  
AFFAIRS ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES FOR THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 presented to Parliament, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2008 financial year in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Standing Order 140 (4) and 176, Mr. Speaker, referred the draft Estimates of the Ministry of Fisheries to the Committee for consideration and report to the House.

**2.0 DELIBERATION**

The Committee held a series of meetings with the following to deliberate on the 2008 Draft Annual Estimates:

The Minister of Fisheries, Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Deputy Ministers of Fisheries Mr. Kwabena Foku-Adusei and the Chief Director, Mr. Emmanuel M. Quaye.

**3.0 REFERENCE MATERIALS**

1. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
2. The Standing Orders of Parliament
3. The 2007 Draft Annual Budget of the Ministry of Fisheries
4. The 2008 Draft Annual Budget of the Ministry of Fisheries
5. The 2007 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2007 financial year.
6. The 2008 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2008 financial year.

#### **4.0 MISSION STATEMENT**

The objective of the Ministry is to promote sustainable and thriving fisheries enterprises through research, technological development and extension services to fishers, processors and traders.

To achieve this, the Ministry pursued policies to reduce poverty among fishermen/mongers and achieve accelerated and sustainable growth in the fisheries sector within the framework of gender equity, social protection and the empowerment of fishing communities in a decentralized environment.

#### **5.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY**

For the 2008 fiscal year the Ministry will pursue the following objectives:

1. Ensure sustainability of fisheries resources
2. Promote and facilitate modernization and expansion of fisheries and aquaculture to achieve fish food self sufficiency and food security
3. Strengthen human resource and institutional capacity for development
4. Ensure food security for all and increase the access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition
5. Ensure the development of aquaculture to meet the shortfall in fish production
6. Ensure the development and strengthening of the requisite institutional capacity to support agriculture productivity

#### **6.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2007**

In the year under review the Ministry of Fisheries was allocated GH¢4,267,000 comprising GOG GH¢1,597,000, IGF GH¢1,600,000 and GH¢1,070,000 from Donor. The breakdown is as follows:

## 6.1 BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 2007 FISCAL YEAR

	<b>P. E</b> GH¢	<b>ADMIN</b> GH¢	<b>SERVICE</b> GH¢	<b>INVESTMENT</b> GH¢	<b>TOTAL</b> GH¢
<b>GEN. ADMIN</b>	37,300	129,600	84,600	656,600	<b>908,100</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	-	149,700	174,800	130,000	<b>454,500</b>
<b>FISHERIES RESEARCH</b>	-	66,200	52,800	46,200	<b>165,200</b>
<b>FISHERIES COMMISSION</b>	-	14,500	15,400	39,300	<b>69,200</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,300</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>327,600</b>	<b>872,100</b>	<b>1,597,000</b>

Within the scope the funds provided the following activities were performed:

### 7.0 PERFORMANCE IN 2007

The draft National Fisheries Policy document has been completed and will be submitted for stakeholders' discussion and for subsequent approval by Parliament.

The Ministry has established links with relevant Security Agencies particularly the Navy to provide effective coast guard patrols and surveillance of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and territorial waters to ensure that acceptable fishing methods and gears are used to fish in our waters and also ward off poachers. The Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) have been installed at Tema and the Navy Headquarters at the Burma Camp and are operational to ensure responsible fishing. To facilitate the monitoring of fishing vessels, 50 additional transponders were procured for installation on Ghanaian registered industrial fishing vessels operating in Ghanaian waters.

For efficient and effective management of fisheries resources, Community Based Fisheries Management Committees (CBFMC) has been formed throughout the country. About 17 district draft Fisheries Bye-laws have been submitted to the Attorney General's Office out of which 5 have been gazetted. The Fisheries regulations that give effect to the Fisheries Act 625 of 2002 have been submitted to Parliament for consideration.

The Ministry commenced the restocking of the Volta Lake, other reservoirs, dams and other water bodies in the 3 Northern Regions. It has also initiated a

restocking programme on the Okyereko Irrigation Project in the Ewutu Efutu Senya District in the Central Region to serve as a pilot project.

A total amount of ₵7.4 billion was advanced to 3,500 fish processors throughout the country as micro-credit to increase fish processing and income levels. A further, ₵5.0 billion was advanced as aquaculture credit for some existing and newly trained fish farmers for pond construction, fingerling and feed procurement to increase production of farmed fish.

Production of fingerlings commenced in earnest in the Ashaiman Aquaculture Demonstration Centre (AADC), after extensive rehabilitation of the centre. It is expected that the AADC will produce one million fingerlings annually to meet the ever increasing demand for fingerlings by fish farmers in the country. The Pilot Aquaculture Centre (PAC) in Kona-Odumase in the Ashanti Region was upgraded to resume production.

The Ministry commissioned DHV of Holland to undertake the survey, feasibility studies and design for the construction of ten fish landing sites and two fishing Harbours in selected fishing communities in the country. DHV has submitted its report together with the cost of construction of the sites to enable the work to commence.

To be able to deal effectively with post harvest losses, the Ministry commissioned a study aimed at helping to select sites for the construction of ice plants and refrigeration facilities. The sod cutting for the construction of cold stores for 6 coastal towns have been performed. Each of the cold stores will be equipped with other facilities such as a day-care centre, fish market and premix fuel depot.

A Fish Health Unit was established within the Fisheries Directorate for disease management and quality control of fish produced in the country to meet international standards on the local and exports markets.

The Marine Fisheries Research Division of the Fisheries Directorate has been strengthened to forecast more accurately on the health of the fish stock in the country. The basic scientific information relevant for fisheries management has been collected, analyzed and documented for the development of the marine fisheries sub-sector. The feasibility studies and design for the setting up of a Fish and Shrimp Processing plant has been completed.

## 8.0 Outlook for 2008

### 8.1 ALLOCATION FOR THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR

For the implementation of the above activities, an amount of **GH¢22,813,736** has been allocated. Out of this, GOG is **GH¢1,656,027**, IGF is **GH¢1,750,000** and Donor is **GH¢19,407,708**.

### 8.2 BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION FOR 2008

ITEM	GOG	IGF	DONOR	TOTAL
P.E	248,561	-	-	248,561
ADMIN	382,186	87,170	-	469,356
SERVICE	327,600	1,378,940	-	1,706,540
INVESTMENT	697,680	283,890	19,407,708	20,389,278
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,656,027</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>	<b>19,407,708</b>	<b>22,813,736</b>

Within the scope of funds provided the following activities would be performed:

### 8.3 ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

The Ministry of Fisheries will continue to promote sustainable and thriving fisheries enterprises through research, technology development, extension and other support services to fishers, processors and traders. The policy thrust will be to enhance growth of the fisheries sector of the economy and improve fisheries services.

The Ministry will fine tune the Fisheries Policy and prepare a Strategic Implementation Plan. The Fisheries Management Plan will also be completed and gazetted to ensure responsible fishing in the industry.

The Ministry in collaboration with district assemblies will reorganize and retool 90 out of the 189 Community Based Fisheries Management Committees (CBFMC) in the country for effective co-management of fisheries resources at the community level. The remaining twelve District Fisheries Bye-laws currently lodged at the Attorney Generals' Department will be gazetted.

The Ministry will strengthen inter-Ministerial linkages with the Ministries of Defence, Interior and Harbours and Railways to ensure the effective monitoring and protection of our marine and inland waters. In this regard, the Ministry will undertake capacity building programmes with its collaborators on the need to monitor, control and maintain surveillance of the country's fishery waters.

The Ministry will extend its presence in the districts by establishing an Extension Unit under the Fisheries Directorate to deliver appropriate messages and services promptly to fish farmers. In this regard, it is expected that 50 district offices will be established, maintained and manned by fisheries scientists and technicians throughout the country over a three year period.

The Ministry will continue construction works on a fish hatchery at Dormaa Ahenkro in the Brong Ahafo Region and commence construction works on the 2 fishing harbours and 10 landing sites for which survey, feasibility studies and designs have been completed. All the landing sites and fishing harbours will have ancillary facilities such as cold store and blast freezing, crèches, premix-fuel stations, an administrative block and fish market. The existing landing site for inshore fishermen at Tema will be upgraded to ensure that fish landed at the harbour meet international standards.

Fish farming (Aquaculture) will be vigorously pursued and intensified to meet the shortfall in fish production in the country. As one of the strategies, the Ministry will continue to train selected farmers in fish farming techniques and help them to establish their own farms to increase the overall fish production in the country.

The provision of micro-credit to fishers and fish processors will be intensified to increase fish production and improve the income of fishers in the following cities and towns: James Town, Teshie, Elmina, Moree, Senya Bereku, Keta, Dixcove, Axim, New Takoradi, Gomoa Fetteh, Dzemini, Tapa Abotoase and Ada.

Work for the construction of 6 ice plant and refrigeration facilities which started in 2007 will be completed and commissioned. The construction of a fish/shrimp processing plant designed to use the state-of-the-art technology will also commence.

## **8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.1 DECOUPLING FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

It was observed that although the Ministry of Fisheries was created years ago, it has not decoupled completely from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Names of staff of the Ministry of Fisheries are still on the payroll of the Ministry of Food

and Agriculture. The Committee was informed that the Controller and Accountant General has not been able to create a management unit mechanized pay voucher for the Ministry although an application has been made. The Committee urges the Controller and Accountant General to ensure that the decoupling is done before the next financial year because such issues lead to fraud.

## **8.2 FISHERIES COMMISSION**

The Committee again realised that the Fisheries Commission, though constituted, has not been inaugurated. The year under review did not see any significant performance of the Commission. Funds allocated to the Commission like previous years will be returned to chest. The non-existence of the Commission is affecting the efficient regulation and management of the fishery resources of Ghana. The Attorney General was blamed for the delay in the inauguration of the Fisheries Commission. The Committee wishes to urge the Attorney General to expedite action on the legalities concerning the Commission to ensure the inauguration within the shortest possible time.

## **8.3 INTERNALLY GENERATED FUNDS**

The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Fisheries was permitted by the MOFEP to use its IGF to purchase vessel monitoring systems. Unfortunately however the IGF has been captured in the 2008 budget as funds committed to the operations of the Ministry of Fisheries. This according to the Ministry will stall the purchase of the vessel monitoring systems. The Committee expressed worry at this development and urged the MOFEP to reconsider its decision regarding the use of the IGF.

## **8.4 OVER EXPLOITATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES**

The Marine Fisheries Research Division of the Ministry of Fisheries monitored oceanographic parameters within the year. Results indicated a depletion of the fishery resources of Ghana due to over exploitation although environmental conditions were good. If the current level of exploitation continues, an appreciable increase in marine fish should not be expected. The Committee charges the Ministry of Fisheries to increase surveillance on the various fishing vessels on our high seas to stop the depletion on fish in our territorial waters. The activities of pair trawlers as well as light fishing should also be monitored more closely.



## **8.5 IMPORTATION OF FISH**

Fish contributes 60% of the annual protein intake of Ghanaians. The country's total annual fish requirement is therefore estimated to be about 720,000 tons. We are however able to produce only an average of 400,000 tons per year. The shortfall of 320,000 is taken care of by imports. The \$200 million worth of fish imported into the country yearly will be curtailed if we monitor activities at sea very well. The Committee recommends an increase in surveillance as well as an early inauguration of the Fisheries Commission to ensure an increase in monitoring of activities in the fishery industry. These, when done, will increase our fish production and decrease our import of fish.

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

To achieve accelerated and sustainable growth in the fisheries sector, surveillance on our high seas should be increased.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for approval an amount of GH¢22,813,736 for the operations of the Ministry of Fisheries in the 2008 fiscal year.



**P.C. APPIAH OFORI  
CHAIRMAN**



**ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO  
CLERK**