

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

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

ON THE

**2010 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

DECEMBER 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In fulfillment of Article 179(1) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2010 financial year was presented to the House on Wednesday, 18th November, 2009 by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Dr. Kwabena Duffuor.

Accordingly, the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology was charged to consider and report to the House, the budgetary allocation made to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology for the 2010 financial year pursuant to Orders 140 (4) and 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

1.2 To assist the Committee in its deliberations, the Sector Minister, Ms. Sherry Ayittey and officials from the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) attended the Committee's sitting. Officials from the under-listed Departments and Agencies under the purview of MEST were also in attendance to offer clarifications on their respective budgetary allocation:

- a. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- b. Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC);
- c. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and
- d. Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD).

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and all officials who were present at the Committee's sitting for their cooperation.

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. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2010 financial year; and
- iv. The Report of the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology on the 2009 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology exists to establish a strong and vibrant scientific and technological base for accelerated and sustainable development to enhance the quality of life for all through the development and promotion of appropriate technologies, safe and sound environmental practices and regulated human settlements.

4.0 REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN YEAR 2009

During the year under review, the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies undertook many activities of which a few are highlighted below:

Science and Technology

a. MEST (Headquarters)

i. Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Scholarship Scheme (MASTESS)

The Ministry instituted the annual Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Scholarship Scheme which seeks to provide scholarships to about 47,000 poor but needy students studying Science and Technical subjects in the secondary, technical and tertiary institutions across the country. The Ministry is hopeful that through this programme, 'Kayayei' who have completed Junior High School (JHS) but could not proceed to the Senior High School (SHS) level because of financial problems will also have the opportunity to enroll in schools with the aid of the MASTESS Scholarship Scheme.

ii. Payment of Arrears on Outstanding Subscription Fees

In view of the immense benefits that Ghana derives from some multilateral agreements and affiliated organisations, the Ministry settled some of its outstanding indebtedness to some International Organisations by honouring its financial obligations through the payment of subscriptions. Specifically, payments were made to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

b. GAEC

- i. GAEC in collaboration with the University of Ghana trained 41 Master of Philosophy students to acquire skills in the various nuclear

fields to expand nuclear knowledge in Ghana at the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS).

- ii. Through the GETFund, rehabilitation of hostel facilities for Graduate Students of SNAS and Lecture Halls for the Graduate School were completed while construction of a Library and ICT Block for SNAS and National Accelerator Building are on-going. These facilities were used for training of human resource development in nuclear technology in Ghana.
- iii. The Commission, through the support of the Export Development and Investment Fund (EDIF) is upgrading the Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) for both commercial quarantine and research purposes.
- iv. The use of nuclear technology for micro propagation of economic plants such as pineapples, banana and plantain are on-going.

c. CSIR

- i. The CSIR (Food Research Institute) has transferred the technology for processing plantain into several commercially convenient products first to the Programme Officers of the Women in Agriculture Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, under the GATSBY/CSIR/MoFA Project. Subsequently, training workshops have been held at three zonal centres; (Konongo, Suhum and Kenyasi) for plantain farmers and local food entrepreneurs in food manufacturing.

- ii. The setting up of a Biogas System for the New Ankaful Maximum Security Prison by CSIR-(Institute of Industrial Research) is 90 percent complete. Human waste of the in-mates would be used to generate biogas which is piped for use in cooking. A similar version of the Biogas System is also being constructed for the cluster of schools under the Ghana School Feeding Programme.
- iii. CSIR-Animal Research Institute (ARI) has established a nucleus population of broilers in Ghana to reduce dependence on imports of grand parent and parent lines from abroad.
- iv. Bird Eye Chillies lines have been developed for export and the local market.
- v. CSIR-Forestry Research Institute has established an "Bambusteam" to aim conservation of bamboo germplasm in Ghana.
- vi. CSIR in collaboration with German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has developed prototypes of solar and gas fired cabinet driers for drying fruits for export and local market.

ENVIRONMENT

a. MEST (Headquarters)

- i. Collaboration with World Bank to conduct studies into the economics/cost of adaptation to climate change

The Ministry has been collaborating with the World Bank, through its Accra office to agree on an outline and preparatory process of a

Ghana-specific report on the economics of adaptation to climate change. The achievement has been in the area of data collection and the development of an economic model. All these are to assist the country take advantage of various opportunities that avail themselves in the runoff to the Conference of Parties in Copenhagen in December 2009.

ii. Response Measures to public concerns on environmental issues

Following petitions and persistent complaints from international and national organizations and the Media, the Ministry has put in place response measures to address concerns raised by NGOs, general public, communities in the areas of:

- Waste management
- Plastic waste disposal
- Effects of mining in the communities
- Land degradation issues
- Telecommunications masts

b. EPA

i. Vehicular Exhaust Emission Monitoring

During the period under review, a mobile vehicular emission was undertaken by the Agency. In all, 12 petrol driven vehicles were tested and the data gathered will be used to develop vehicular emissions standards.

ii. Aquatic Weeds Project

The project continued to remove invasive water weeds from the Tano and Volta Rivers; about 130 hectares of weeds have been removed. Biological control activities are continuing in the Tano for water Hyacinth and Kariba weeds. Waders and other equipment have been supplied to Community Water Weeds Committee. The outset of rains has caused massive swathes of floating vegetation to drift into already cleared areas.

c. TCPD

- i. Data collection for the preparation of planning schemes covering state acquired lands released by government to their allodial owners in the Greater Accra Region was undertaken.
- ii. Studies by TCPD/LAP towards the legal and institutional reforms, and the commercialisation of town and country planning services have been completed.

5.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES OF MEST FOR YEAR 2010

For year 2010, MEST has set for itself, nine (9) policy objectives in order to deliver on its mandate. These are:

- a. To promote the application of science, technology and innovation on all sectors of the economy and ensure best environmental practice.
- b. To strengthen the appropriate institutional framework to promote the development of science and technology.
- c. To promote science and technical education at all levels.

- d. To ensure the restoration of degraded natural resources through the promotion of alternative livelihood programmes.
- e. To promote sustainable natural resource management.
- f. To improve government's commitment to international protocols and conventions and incorporate them into national laws.
- g. To build the requisite institutions and strengthen the regulatory framework to ensure sustainable natural resource management and effective environmental governance.
- h. To promote a sustainable, spatially integrated and orderly development of human settlements to support socio-economic development.
- i. To develop and retain Human Resource capacity at the National, Regional and District levels.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR YEAR 2010

For year 2010, MEST will undertake the following projects and activities among others:

Environment

- i. Re-launching of the National Environmental Fund and a review of the fees and levies charged by EPA;
- ii. Development of a National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- iii. Land and coastal wetlands site will be developed and degraded mangroves, rehabilitated;
- iv. Intensify the promotion of an efficient and accessible industrial and domestic waste management programme including the management of plastic waste and pursuit of human centred biodiversity conservation initiatives; and

- v. Institute a certification for the radiation levels in food items.

TCPD

- i. Upscaling of Mobile Planning Scheme to ensure that all districts are served with professional town planning services.
- ii. Provision of structure plans for Regional capitals out of which detailed planning schemes will be prepared to guide urban expansion
- iii. Street naming and numbering of houses for emergency and security operations, postal and taxi services, revenue collection and business operations and
- iv. Extensive public education and awareness creation for people to appreciate the need to secure permit before construction.

Science and Technology

The key focus will be to promote the development of Science and Technology innovation policy at all levels of production as follows:

- i. Revamp the Science and Technology Endowment Fund to support research activities in universities, research institutions and graduate research projects;
- ii. Build appropriate linkages between research and production to ensure that research outputs are adequately utilised; and
- iii. Provide incentives to attract students to study science and intensify the use of Science Resource Centres in less endowed areas.

CSIR

- i. Continued research to improve crop varieties and assist farmers to improve farm yields and reduce post harvest losses as well as increase shelf lives;

- ii. Intensify the identification of lesser known wood species and promotion of national agro-forestry including the use of lesser known wood species for poles to support rural electrification projects and for construction of bridges on feeder roads;
- iii. Promotion of the production of bio-fuel (from agricultural wastes) for powering generators and the construction of hybrid solar/wind energy systems for households to reduce the over dependence on the national power grid;
- iv. Continue to use nuclear and biotechnological techniques for the development of mutants that are resistant to plant diseases; and
- v. Continue studies on the application of sterile insect techniques for the suppression of tsetseflies against trypanosomiasis and complete the construction of the National Accelerator facility.

7.0 2010 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES

7.1 For year 2010, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology has been allocated an amount of **One Hundred and Thirty-one Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-four Ghana Cedis (GH¢131,529,124.00)** to enable it execute its programmes and activities. The breakdown of the total allocation is as follows:

Government of Ghana (GOG)	-	GH¢50,481,439.00
Internally Generated Fund (IGF)	-	GH¢6,320,662.00
Donor Funds	-	GH¢74,727,022.00

**BUDGET CEILING DISTRIBUTION FOR MEST
FOR YEAR 2010 (GOG)**

ITEM	PERSONNEL EMOLUMENT GH¢	ADMIN. GH¢	SERVICE GH¢	INVESTMENT GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Ministry	311,818.51	873,040.89	248,400.00	343,011.63	1,776,271.03
EPA	1,426,676.35	454,512.00	122,200.00	20,999.99	2,024,388.34
GAEC	7,761,290.24	445,701.70	191,800.00	118,999.99	8,517,791.93
CSIR	30,459,967.37	2,944,505.11	307,500.00	660,988.39	34,372,960.87
TCPD	2,755,108.53	464,818.30	130,100.00	440,000.00	3,790,026.83
Total	42,714,816.00	5,182,578.00	1,000,000.00	1,584,000.00	50,481,439.00

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee, in considering the referral, made the following observations and recommendations:

i. Budgetary Allocation for Programmes/Projects

The Committee also observed that budgetary allocation made to MEST for its programmes and activities for year 2010 is woefully inadequate. In year 2009 for instance, MEST budgeted for an amount of GH¢95,600,704.00 but was allocated GH¢41,320,001. For year 2010, MEST projected an amount of GH¢124,969,618.98 as against an amount of GH¢50,481,439.00 that has been allocated to it giving a variance of GH¢74,488,179.98.

The Committee was surprised at the margin of the variance and is uncertain as to how MEST would be able to effectively implement its outlined programmes and projects since its budgetary requirement was based on costing of its programmes and activities.

Inadequate funding, the Committee noted, is a major constraint that permeates the entire Sector. Funding for developmental and research activities, payments of subscriptions under various conventions and counterpart funds for projects of the Agencies and Departments under the jurisdiction of the Ministry are a source of worry to the Committee.

The Committee was informed that the two key Research Institutes under MEST (GAEC and CSIR) are financially constrained to carry out their research activities.

For this reason, MOFEP is being urged by the Committee to allocate additional funds to MEST should there be a supplementary budget in order not to jeopardise the Ministry's activities and programmes outlined for year 2010.

ii. Allocation for Service Activity

The Committee noted that funds under this item are to cater for the main programmes and core businesses of the Sector such as research programmes, counterpart funds, overseas conferences, payment of annual subscriptions, among others.

For year 2010, the Ministry and its Agencies and Departments would require an amount of GH¢6,046,042 to cater for its Service expenses. Surprisingly, the committee noted that an allocation of GH¢1,000,000.00 has been made to MEST for its Service expenses. Although the amount is higher than the allocation of GH¢817,713 made for this item in year 2009, it remains grossly inadequate.

The Committee further noted that an extra budgetary requirement of GH¢4,132,261 and \$415,000 (counterpart fund for CSIR Agricultural

Sub-Sector Investment Programme and Invasive Alien Species) would be required to cater for Service activities for the entire MDAs. The extra budgetary requirement, the Committee was informed, is inclusive of an amount of GH¢1,913,781.99 to cater for payment of outstanding subscriptions within the Sector.

Considering the number of activities and the array of projects of MEST in almost all the Regions, the Committee is of the view that the allocated ceilings for Service activities should be reviewed by MOFEP to help meet the targets for year 2010. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that additional funds should be made available to MEST should there be a Supplementary Budget to adequately cater for the Service activities of MEST.

iii. Inadequate Staff

The Committee noted that the total staff strength required for the main Ministry is seventy (70) but currently, has fifty-five (55) personnel at post. Agencies such as TCPD and EPA also lack adequate number of technical staff at their Head, Regional and District offices.

Deliberating on the issue, the Committee noted that MEST has already put measures in place to solve its staffing needs. As a result, a number of additional staff are expected to be posted to the Ministry and its Agencies to fill vacancies especially in the technical division.

The Committee is of the view that inadequate staffing retards development process and impacts on the performance of set programmes and policies. To this end, the Committee considers the

augmentation of staff for MEST as critical if it is to achieve its objective of establishing and providing a strong national scientific and technological base through the development and promotion of appropriate technologies, safe and sound environmental practices and development of efficient human settlements.

The Committee therefore recommends that MEST should collaborate with the Office of the Head of Civil Service to ensure that its staffing needs are met.

iv. Inadequate Office Accommodation and Logistics

The Committee further observed that currently, the main Ministry is battling with the problem of office accommodation. Again, lack of basic requisite logistics such as computers, vehicles and furniture compounds the problems of the main Ministry. The TCPD is no exception to this state of affairs. TCPD'S present accommodation is in a deteriorating state that needs immediate rehabilitation. The Radiological and Medical Sciences Research Institute of GAEC also needs new blocks to enable it expand its research activities.

The Committee views these conditions as worrisome especially when MEST is supposed to augment its staff strength to enable it achieve its policy objectives set out for year 2010. The Committee therefore urges the government as a matter of urgency to provide an office block for the smooth running of MEST.

v. Poor Condition of Service

The Committee further noted that poor conditions of service, low motivation and non analogous salaries with tertiary institutions in the Departments and Agencies of the Ministry, has led to a high attrition of staff. Resignations and voluntary retirements are also common within the Ministry's Departments and Agencies.

Currently, Researchers at CSIR are seeking for 200% professional allowance which would put them at par with colleagues at the Universities and GAEC. This disparity has caused labour turn-over of specialised crucial research staff.

The Committee is of the considered view that this state of affairs does not augur well for the smooth operation and attainment of organisational targets. The Committee therefore urges the Sector Minister to look into this outstanding issue as a matter of urgency for a lasting solution.

vi. Internally Generated Fund (IGF)

The Committee was dismayed at the presentation made by MEST at its Budget hearing. None of the Departments and Agencies did adequately account for IGF for year 2009.

The IGF from non tax revenue collected by the Departments and Agencies as indicated in the Ministry's presentation for the half year of 2009 are as follows:

a. EPA	-	GH¢2,268,042.90
b. GAEC	-	GH¢161,286.09
c. CSIR	-	<u>GH¢2,199,508.70</u>
Total	-	<u>GH¢5,628,837.69</u>

Of these figures, the Committee could not fathom what amount was received, the percentage of the amount that was retained and how the retention was expended as at November ending.

This practice, the Committee noted should cease if any appeals for additional funds will receive some hearing. Where legislation is required to enable the Agencies to receive appropriate shares of revenues, the Committee should be informed so that corrective measures could be taken.

The Committee further urges the Ministry to ensure that funds generated by its Departments and Agencies are clearly indicated in future Budget Estimates presentations.

9.0 CONCLUSION

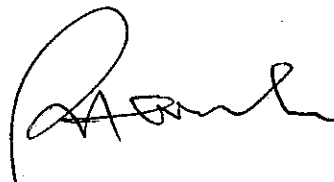
Undoubtedly, MEST has a major role to play in the socio-economic development of this country. For the Sector to be vibrant, MEST which is in its formative stages should be adequately resourced. This will enable the Ministry play its role efficiently in overseeing the activities of the Sector.

In the opinion of the Committee, the amount allocated to MEST for its operations in year 2010 is inadequate to solve its numerous problems. The Committee therefore urges MOFEP to allocate additional funds to the Ministry

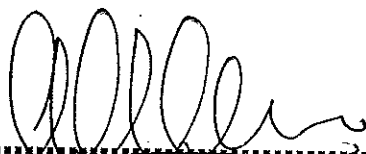
should there be a Supplementary Budget to enable it achieve its objectives. The Committee also urges MEST to ensure a judicious use of the amount that has been allocated to it.

Finally, the Committee recommends to the House for approval, the sum of **One Hundred and Thirty-one Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢131,529,124.00)** being the total allocation to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology for the financial year ending 31st December 2010.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. RAYMOND A. TAWIAH
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)



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ABIGAIL ABA ANSO
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)