



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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENDER
AND CHILDREN ON THE 2002 ANNUAL
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS**

14TH MARCH, 2002

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order Number 140(4) of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs for the fiscal year 2002 was referred to this Committee, Gender and Children, for consideration and report, following the presentation of the 2002 Annual Budget Statement by the Minister of Finance on Thursday, 21st February 2002.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

In considering the Estimates the Committee held two meetings with the Honourable Minister, the Technical Directors and the Principal Officials of the Ministry to seek their clarifications on the Estimates. The Committee is very grateful to them for their assistance.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following reference documents were used by the Committee in its deliberations:

- i) The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana,
- ii) The Standing Orders of Parliament,
- iii) The Sessional Address of H.E. the President;

- iv) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for 2002 Financial Year; and
- v) The report of the 2001 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.
- vi) The 2002 Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.

4.0 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE SECTOR MINISTRY**

4.1 **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY**

The mission of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs is to "unify all stakeholders involved in the promotion of gender and children issues and create an environment conducive to the integration of women and children in all sectors of the economy".

4.2 The Ministry is responsible for:

- i. Policy formulation, co-ordination and monitoring of institutional framework and activities of women and children's programmes,
- ii. Advocacy of gender sensitivity in sectoral plans and business promotions, programmes and projects,
- iii. Collaboration with donor agencies, NGOs and other development partners to facilitate the integration of women and children in national development; and
- iv. Dissemination of government policies, research findings on women and children to assist in the development process.

5.0 **OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry has the following as its main objectives:

- i. To develop policies and programmes that will promote gender equality and child development at all levels of society,
- ii. To establish a national framework for women issues through the institution of affirmative action on women's participation in public life,
- iii. To analyse the impact of economic reform on women and children and initiate a process which will empower them to participate fully in the design, management and implementation of socio-economic programmes,
- iv. To co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate gender based programmes and projects, using existing structures; and
- v. To improve institutional and human resource capacity of "Women and Children in Development".

5.1 The above- mentioned policies and programmes are implemented through the following affiliated agencies:

- (i) Ghana Women Centres (G.W.C); and
- (ii) Ghana Children Centres (G.C.C)

6.0 **TOTAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION OF THE MINISTRY FOR 2002**

The Committee observed that a total budgetary allocation of **Six billion, Seven hundred and Nine million cedis (¢6,709,000,000.00)** has been provided for the operations of the Ministry for the year ending 31st December, 2002. This is made up of:

6.1. <u>ITEM</u>	<u>ALLOCATION</u>
i. Personal Emoluments	- ¢976,000,000.00
ii. Administration	- ¢2,284,000,000.00
iii. Services	- ¢3,130,000,000.00
iv. Investment	- ¢ 319,000,000.00
Total	- <u>¢6,709,000,000.00</u>

- Details of the budgetary allocation for the Ministry and its affiliate agencies are shown in the table below:

**2002 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE VARIOUS
EXPENDITURE ITEMS IN CEDIS**

ITEM	MIN. OF WOMEN & CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS (TOTAL)	HEAD QUARTERS	GHANA WOMEN CENTRES (GWC)	GHANA CHILDREN'S CENTRES (GCC)
Personal Emoluments	976,000,000	351,000,000	365,000,000	260,000,000
Administration	2,284,000,000	1,126,133,350	557,491,350	600,375,300
Service Activity	3,130,000,000	1,698,387,912	709,074,688	722,537,400
Investment	319,000,000	219,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000
TOTAL	6,709,000,000	3,394,521,262	1,681,566,038	1,632,912,700

6.2 BREAKDOWN OF ITEMS UNDER THE BUDGET

The various expenditure of the Ministry and its agencies have been examined under four main headings below:

6.2.1 Personal Emolument

An amount of **¢976,000,000.00** has been allocated to the sector Ministry to cater for Personal Emolument. Out of this amount **¢351,000,000.00** is to take care of the main Ministry (Headquarters), **¢365,000,000.00** for the Ghana Women Centres (GWC) whilst **¢260,000,000.00** is earmarked for the Ghana Children Centres.

6.2.2 Administration

For administration an amount of **¢2,284,000,000.00** has been allocated to the sector to take care of its expenses. Out of this, **¢1,126,133,350** is allocated to the Headquarters of the Ministry, **¢557,491,350** to the Ghana Women Centres

and the Ghana Children Centres is to receive an amount of **¢600,375,300** for its administration expenses.

6.2.3 Services

A budgetary allocation of **¢3,130,000,000.00** has been provided for Services Expenses. Out of this, an amount of **¢1,698,387,912.00** is to go to the Ministry's Headquarters, **¢709,074,688.00** for the Ghana Women Centres whilst the Ghana Children Centres receive **¢722,537,400.00**.

6.2.4 Investment

Out of the total sum of **¢319,000,000,000** allocated to the sector for its Investments Expenses, **¢219,000,000.00** has been allocated to the Headquarters whilst **¢50,000,000.00** goes to the Ghana Children Centres, and **¢50,000,000.00** to the Ghana Women's Centres.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker, of the total amount allocated to the Ministry, only about half was released by the Ministry of Finance. For instance, out of the total budgetary allocation of **¢6,999,081,318.00** the actual release to the Ministry was **¢3,181,230,908.00**.

7.1 The breakdown of the provision approved by Parliament and subsequent revision are as shown in the table below:

ITEM OF EXPENDITURE	APPROVED ALLOCATION ¢	ACTUAL RELEASED ¢	BALANCE VARIANCE ¢
PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS	920,578,474	589,684,362	330,894,112
ADMINISTRATION	1,541,714,001	1,805,747,288	(264,033,287)
SERVICES	1,316,922,687	424,301,100	676,770,249
INVESTMENT	3,219,866,156	361,498,158	2,656,367,998
TOTAL	6,999,081,318	3,181,230,908	3,601,999,072

- 7.2. The long delays in the release of funds and in some cases non-release of the funds during the period resulted in the Ministry and its agencies finding it difficult to operate effectively and consequently constraining the Ministry from achieving its overall set objectives.

Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the above stated difficulties, the Committee is happy to note that, at least, about 90% of the rehabilitation works on the building for the Ministry's headquarters is completed and would soon be ready for use.

7.3 **Personal Emoluments**

The Committee observed that, the allocation made for the Ministry's Headquarters for payments of salaries and allowances to the staff was not utilised.

This was due to the fact that, the staff at post were either seconded or transferred from other existing institutions, hence no recruitment was made.

On the other hand the Ministry in the year 2002, would require the budgeted amount in these estimates to pay for salaries and allowances of the staff to be recruited.

The Committee is therefore, urging the Ministry of Finance to release this money as early as possible to enable the Ministry embark on its recruitment exercise to operate at full capacity.

7.4. **Service Activity**

Mr. Speaker, your Committee noted that, as part of the Ministry's efforts to support the policy of Government on Poverty Reduction among Women, a number of service activities have been outlined to be undertaken during the period. Among these activities are:

- i. To establish Micro Credit Scheme,
- ii. To provide financial and managerial support for two hundred proprietors of Vocational Institutions and;
- iii. To mobilise a total of hundred group of Women country wide for income generating activities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a welcome programme which should be encouraged and supported by every Ghanaian. However, the Committee would like to recommend that, the Ministry should advise its staff on the ground not to politicise the programme to destroy the core objectives of the Scheme so that every Ghanaian woman who qualifies to source funds from the scheme would have easy access to it.

Secondly, since the country is divided into 110 Administrative Districts, the Committee is of the view that, the Ministry should endeavour to look for more funds to increase the number from 100 to 110 to enable all the Districts have equal share of the programmes from its initial stage.

7.5. **Investment Activity**

The Committee further observed that, the amount provided for the Investment Activities was woefully inadequate both in the last year and this year's Budget Estimates.

As a new Ministry, it needs to embark on a lot of investments to enable it take off effectively.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should take the appropriate steps to ensure that the Ministry is given the necessary financial support to establish itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee also noted that, one of the areas the Ministry intends to tackle this year is health. The Ministry would collaborate with the Ministry of Health and other Institutions to help solve the health problems of women and children in the country. The Committee would also want to suggest that, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs should work with the Department of Social Welfare, so that together they can improve on the lives of the children, especially those in the Orphanages and other such places.

The Committee is therefore urging the Ministry to ensure that, children's issues are not subsumed by those of women.

8.0 **CONCLUSION**

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs has a significant role in ensuring that Ghanaian Women and Children are given a prominent attention as far as national development is concern.

Upon a critical assessment of the programmes and activities embarked on by the Ministry in the year 2001, the Committee concluded that the amount allocated last year was inadequate and therefore recommends that the total amount of C6,709,000,000 allocated to the Ministry under head 360 for year ending 31st December, 2002 be approved by this august House. The Committee also urges the Ministry of Finance to release this approved sum on time.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. ANGELINA BAIDEN-AMISSAH (MRS)
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON GENDER
AND CHILDREN



.....
JOANA ABENA SAKYI ADJEI (MRS)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

14TH MARCH 2002