



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

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS ON THE 2002 ANNUAL  
ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**MARCH 2002**

# **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS ON THE 2002 ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Following the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government to the House by the Hon. Minister of Finance on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2002, the Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Communications and Technology (MOCT) was referred to the Select Committee on Communications for consideration and report, pursuant to Standing Order 140 and 182 of Parliament and Article 179 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 The Committee, in its deliberations met with the Sector Minister, his Deputy and Officials of the Ministry as well as officials of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) for further clarifications on the Annual Estimates.
- 1.3 The Committee also used the following reference materials:
- i. The Constitution of Ghana (1992)
  - ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament
  - iii. The 2002 State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President
  - iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government, 2002

## **2.0 MISSION STATEMENT AND KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry of Communications and Technology exists to facilitate the development of a reliable and cost effective world-class communications

infrastructure and services, driven by appropriate technological innovations to enhance the promotion of economic competitiveness in a knowledge based environment.

The key objectives of the Ministry include the following:

- i. To facilitate the development 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 application of computer 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 institute research into the area of general technology to facilitate the provision of appropriate tools and machines to support the growth of small scale enterprises engaged in agro processing and other local industries.
- iv. 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' commerce development.

- v. To undertake institutional education on HIV/AIDS and its implication on integrated national development.
- vi. To develop and oversee policy and legislation that will promote hardware and software development and marketing at national and international levels.

### 3.0 DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY

Within the corporate set up under which all Ministries are to operate, the Ministry of Communications and Technology is expected to oversee the development of policies related to the operational and regulatory framework and systems of organizations, some of them being statutory.

The agencies that currently constitute the Ministerial set up are as follows:

#### A. The Telecommunications Sector – This comprises:

- i. National Communications Authority (NCA)
- ii. Ghana Telecom (GT)
- iii. Ghana Postal Co. Ltd.
- iv. Meteorological Services Department (MSD)

#### B. The Technology Sector

- I. Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service (GRATIS)

- II. Development and Application of Immediate Technology (DAPIT) Pursuant to the new mandate of the Ministry, agencies may be required to handle specific operational functions of the Sector

#### 4.0 KEY OUTPUTS OF OBJECTIVES (2002 – 2004)

The outputs expected from the Ministry's objectives between 2002 and 2004 include the following:

- (i) E' Commerce and Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools to support productivity growth promoted.
- (ii) Application of information technologies to government administration information and service provision commenced, monitored and co-ordinated.
- (iii) Medium of durbars and counselling to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to monitor the HIV/AIDS pandemic; develop and implement effective HIV prevention interventions institutionalised.
- (iv) Information base created on appropriate Technology (devices, equipment, processes) to assist rural communities by December 2004.
- (v) DAPIT website created by December 2004.
- (vi) Promote 4 new gratis ITTU improved products and services by December 2002.
- (vii) Improve infrastructure plant and equipment for timely delivery of products by December 2002.

- (viii) 108 bulletins and reports of crop forecasting for national food security published and communicated by 2004.
- (ix) Programme for cost recovery implemented by 2004.

## 5.0 EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 2002

A sum of **Fifty-four billion, Eight hundred and Twenty million Cedis (¢54,820,000,000)** has been provided (under Heads 280 and 282) as total budgetary allocation for the operations of the Ministry of Communications and Technology for the fiscal year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

This amount is of two components namely; Government of Ghana (GOG) and Donor.

i.	GOG	-	¢10,916,000,000
ii.	DONOR	-	¢43,905,000,000
	Total	=	¢54,821,000,000

## 6.0 REVIEW OF YEAR 2001 PERFORMANCE/Achievements

The Committee in assessing the performance of the Ministry, Departments and Agencies under it, identified the following achievements:

### 6.1a The Communications Sector

- i. A National Information Technology Framework document was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2001.
- ii. The Ministry in conjunction with the office of Chief of Staff programmed a two-day Roundtable Stakeholder Discussion on National IT Policy Framework in mid September 2001.

### 6.1b Communications Sub-sector

- i. Series of Roundtable discussions were held with computer hardware and software manufactures to facilitate assistance to support the sector.
- ii. To enable sector Ministers drive ICT in their various Ministries, the Ministry in conjunction with GIMPA in September 2001 initiated a programme to enable Ministers and their Deputies acquire working knowledge in the application of ICT.
- iii. Discussions to harmonise the ICT human resource potential of the country commenced in December 2001 with CSDU and PUFMARP Sector operating under MOF.
- iv. Strengthening of the human resource capacity of the NCA as a regulatory body to enable NCA effectively develop and manage the telecom sector in a competitive manner initiated.

## 6.2 GHANA TELECOM (GT)

- i. The Board of Ghana Telecom (GT) Reconstituted to focus on policies towards the attainment of targets.
- ii. GT increased fixed telephone lines from 200,000 to 230,000 as at December 2001.
- iii. Mobile Phone (One Touch) connections increased from 30,000 to 45,300 as at December 2001.

## 6.3 National Communications Authority (NCA)

- i. The Board of NCA constituted to facilitate improved policy formulation on telecommunication
- ii. Ghana Post Co. (GPC) Ltd. Board reconstituted to facilitate improved policy formulation.

## 6.4 Meteorological Services Department (MSD)

- i. MSD created and rehabilitated 110 weather-observing stations for Ashanti, Eastern and BrongAhafo Regions.
- ii. Upgrade of TV weather station at the Kotoka International Airport Meteorological Office undertaken.
- iii. Computerisation of five airport stations namely; Kumasi, Takoradi, Tamale, Sunyani and Accra Completed.
- iv. Restoration of Internet connectivity at MDS Headquarters and construction of website completed.



## 7.0 OBSERVATIONS

The GRATIS Foundation will provide gender sensitive technical and rural enterprise skills.

It will also provide skills training to 540 individuals to set up small technology based businesses and design and disseminate 6 new technologies in the processing of cassava, maize, cashew and sheanut

The Committee noted during its deliberations that GRATIS has to vacate the rented premises it currently occupies in Sunyani; hence the need for the agency to acquire a new office building as soon as practicable.

It was further noted that the Divestiture Implementation Committee (DIC) is selling out a building which costs ₵350 million and GRATIS has approached DIC to help them acquire it for their use.

In 2002, Development and Application of Intermediate Technology (DAPIT) will publish a directory of appropriate technological equipment made locally.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that DAPIT has a working relationship with GRATIS. For example, when the former is manufacturing an equipment or undertaking a project, the latter assists by adding value or doing research into the project for easy acceptance and implementation.

According to DAPIT a number of districts selected from the ten (10) regions of the country have been earmarked for possible training programmes in

areas such as snail farming, mushroom production, grass cutter and rabbit rearing.

The Committee considers the total budget of ₵288 million Cedis allocated to DAPIT as modest.

The Meteorological Services Department has been provided a sum of ₵4,715,463/092. The Committee was informed that the MSD needed a vehicle (a pickup) from a DANIDA offer to be used for trekking and installation of its equipment. However, financial assistance (in respect of counterpart funding) to enable them acquire the vehicle could not be secured.

The MSD was unable to engage a consultant to assist the department with the implementation of cost recovery programme due to lack of funds.

The department needs funds to address their acute staff problem, up-grade the Kumasi airport office, and employ some weather forecasters to serve as aircraft landing and take-off staff. It also needs funds to engage rain - gauge readers.

## 8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is of the general opinion that GRATIS is doing a very good job and therefore needs to be given all the needed assistance and encouragement.

It is recommended that the Sector Ministry discusses the issue of GRATIS' Sunyani office building with the Chairman of the DIC, who happens to be the Minister of Finance to ascertain the possible release of some contingency fund or any to help solve this very pressing problem.

It is also recommended that Meteo and the Ministry of Finance should make a special request to the Chief of Staff so that some vehicle vote could be released to enable the department benefit from the DANIDA vehicle offer.

The Committee finally recommends that in order to attract adequate staff, the Meteo department and the Ministry of Finance should find the appropriate salary level of rain - gauge readers and place them as such.

## 9.0 **CONCLUSION**

The Committee views the sum allocated to the Sector Ministry as inadequate, considering the numerous development projects outlined under its programmes.

It is however expected that the amount would be used judiciously towards the attainment of objectives and set targets.

The Committee hereby recommends that the House approve the sum of

**Fifty-four billion, Eight hundred and Twenty million Cedis**

**(54,820,000,000)** (provided under Heads 280 and 282) for the operations of

the Ministry of Communications and Technology for the 2002 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.



**PEACE A. FIAWOYIFE (MS)  
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**



**HON. AKWASI AFRIFA  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.**

**11 MARCH, 2002**

**APPENDIX 1**

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**2002 ESTIMATES**

**SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE BY FUNCTION AND**  
**PROGRAMME (IN MILLIONS)**

<b>ACTIVITY EXPENSES</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT OF GHANA</b>	<b>DONOR 2002</b>
PERSONNEL EMOLUMENTS	6,970	0
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,859	0
SERVICE EXPENSES	1,529	41,557
INVESTMENT EXPENSES	558	2,348
TOTAL	10,916	43,905
GRAND TOTAL	54,820	

Table 1. Summary by Head and Subhead by GoG - Donor, Year 2002.

	Total Estimates	Personnel Emolument	Item 2-4	Administration Expenses		Service Expenses		Investment Expenses	
				GoG	Donor	GoG	Donor	GoG	Donor
09 Ministry of Communications and Technology	14,834,283,194	6,970,318,397	7,867,964,797	1,858,716,999	0	1,528,958,797	1,574,780,000	557,508,000	2,348,000,000
280 Headquarters	9,222,544,102	2,939,646,305	6,282,897,797	898,440,999	0	1,245,966,796	1,574,780,000	215,710,000	2,348,000,000
010 General Administration	1,819,051,800	458,006,000	1,361,051,798	502,423,000	0	695,802,800	0	162,826,000	0
03S DAPT	288,145,155	90,311,157	197,833,998	37,716,000	0	147,813,998	0	12,204,000	0
04S GRATS	7,115,347,148	2,391,335,148	4,724,012,000	3,583,302,000	0	402,250,000	1,574,780,000	40,680,000	2,346,000,600
282 Mass Services Department	5,615,739,091	4,030,672,092	1,585,067,000	960,276,000	0	282,993,000	0	341,798,000	0
010 General Administration	2,539,297,209	1,635,490,449	1,103,206,760	479,015,760	0	282,993,000	0	341,798,000	0
020 Synoptic Meteorological & Forecasting Division	2,397,495,705	2,028,409,065	369,086,640	369,086,640	0	0	0	0	0
030 General Scientific Services Division	578,946,177	566,772,577	112,173,600	112,173,600	0	0	0	0	0