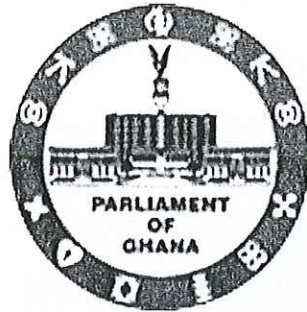


**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON THE 2024 BUDGET
ESTIMATES FOR THE PARLIAMENT OF GHANA**

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance Hon Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2024 financial year to Parliament on Thursday 15th November, 2023 in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Section 21(3) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

The Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana were subsequently laid before the House in accordance with articles 178 (1) (a) and 179 (2) (b) of the 1992 Constitution and Section 15 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460) as amended.

Pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker directed the Estimates for the Parliament of Ghana to stand committed to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report to the House.

The Committee was assisted by the Clerk to Parliament, Mr Cyril K. O. Nsiah and Officials of the Parliamentary Service to consider the Estimates. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Clerk and his officials for the assistance.

2.0. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to and/or was guided by the following documents during its deliberations on the Estimates:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. Public Financial Management Act 2016 (Act 921);
- iii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iv. The Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460);
- v. The Parliamentary Service (Amendment) Act, 2008, (Act 763);
- vi. The Report of the Special Budget Committee on the 2023 Budget Estimates of the Parliament of Ghana;
- vii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2024 Financial Year;
- viii. Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2024 – 2027;

- ix. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- x. Recommendations of the President of the Republic of Ghana on the 2024 Financial Estimates for Parliament of Ghana.

3.0. MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC GOALS

The Mission of Parliament of Ghana is to undertake representational, deliberative, legislative, financial control, oversight, information dissemination and problem resolution functions supported by efficient, non-partisan, innovative and professional Parliamentary Service.

In pursuit of this mission, Parliament intends to implement a number of activities aimed at improving service delivery, promoting accountability and responsive governance. To this end, the following strategic goals would be pursued in 2024:

- a. Strengthen the capacity of Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service to introduce Private Member's Bills and effectively scrutinize Bills, Regulations, Treaties, Conventions and other Agreements;
- b. Enhance Parliament-citizen engagement;
- c. Enhance the deliberative and information dissemination functions of Members;
- d. Strengthen mechanism for evidence-based decision-making;

- e. Strengthen the role of Parliament in the budget cycle, oversight of the economy and international financial agreements;
- f. Continuously reform the Parliamentary administration for efficient resource utilization and service delivery;
- g. Deepen the capacity of Committees of the House in investigating and enquiring into the activities and administration of Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Other Constitutional and Statutory bodies;
- h. Ensure that Parliament has adequate infrastructure to sustain excellence in service delivery;
- i. Institutionalize reforms for the effectiveness and efficiency of Parliament;
- j. Strengthen the role of Parliament in regional, continental and broader international integration through strategic partnerships with other Parliaments.

4.0. 2023 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

4.1. 2023 Financial Performance

For the performance of its functions, an amount of **Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢797,850,320)** was allocated to the Parliament of Ghana for its programmes and activities in the 2023 financial year. Out of this allocation, the sum of **Six Hundred and Sixty-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Three**

Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢668,253,470) representing 83.76% of the total Allocation had been released as at 30th November, 2023. The unreleased balance therefore stands at **One Hundred and Twenty-Nine Million, Five Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Ghana Cedis (GH¢129,596,850)** representing 16.24% of the 2023 allocation.

The 2023 Budget allocation, releases and actual expenditure as at 30th November, 2023 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: 2023 Expenditure Outturn as at 30th November, 2023 (GH¢)

Expenditure Item	Budget Appropriation (A)	Releases (B)	Actual Exp. (C)	Variance (A-B)
Compensation	368,850,320	280,335,418	280,335,418	88,514,902
Goods and Services	319,000,000	302,699,141	278,996,744	16,300,859
Capex	110,000,000	85,218,911	60,698,993	24,781,089
Total	797,850,320	668,253,470	620,031,155	129,596,850

Source: The PBB Estimates for the Parliament of Ghana for the year 2024.

4.2. Operational performance

Parliament with the support of the Parliamentary Service, undertook the following key activities towards the realization of its core mandate of legislation, oversight, financial scrutiny and representation:

4.2.1. Legislative Business

In accordance with Article 93(2) of the Constitution, Parliament continued to discharge its mandate through Plenary and Committee Sittings to consider and approve legislative proposals brought before the House. In this regard, the House held a total of 86 Plenary Sittings and considered 296 Papers. These Papers include:

- i. 48 Agreements
- ii. 17 Reports of the Auditor-General
- iii. 154 Annual Statements by Audit Committees, and
- iv. 77 Committee Reports

Also, 133 Committee Meetings were held to consider Papers covering various policy proposals that were laid before the House in 2023. 24 Bills were presented and read the First time in the House, out of which 12 were passed by the House. These include the following three (3) Private Members' Bills:

- i. Criminal Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Abolition of death penalty);
- ii. Criminal Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Anti-witchcraft); and
- iii. Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Abolition of Death Penalty).

In all, 594 Parliamentary Questions were asked and addressed by respective Sector Ministers whilst 100 Statements were made in the House.

4.2.2. Parliamentary Financial Control and Oversight

In accordance with Articles 174, 178, 179, 181, 184 and 187 of the Constitution, Parliament continued to exercise Financial control and oversight over the allocation and use of state resources. In this direction, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) held 96 Public Sittings and considered 15 Reports of the Auditor-General for 2020 and 2021 Financial Years, in accordance with Article 187. The Committee also presented Reports to the Plenary for adoption on all the Reports of the Auditor - General.

The Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises reviewed the Financial Statements and Fiscal Performance of State-Owned Enterprises. These State Enterprises include Volta River Authority (VRA), COCOBOD, Ghana National Petroleum Company (GNPC), Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo), and Bulk Oil Storage and Transportation Company (BOST).

4.2.3. State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2023

Pursuant to Article 67 of the Constitution, H.E. the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo delivered to the House, a Message on the State of the Nation on 8th March, 2023.

The Address covered key developments within the various sectors and critical policy initiatives that would be implemented to achieve the aspirations of the people of Ghana.

4.2.4. Physical and ICT Infrastructure

During the year under review, Parliament continued with the implementation of initiatives under the Parliament Supplementary Office Project (PSOP) and related projects to improve office accommodation, safety and security of Members of Parliament and Staff of the Service.

The Parliamentary Service in the year 2023 completed and inaugurated an Office Complex for the development Sub-Division of the Service to accommodate staff of the newly created Departments of Works, Estates, and Facilities Management. The Service has also completed 87% of the construction of the Office Complex for the Parliamentary Training Institute and 60% of the Rehabilitation of the Eastern End Fence Wall project.

4.2.5. 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

In pursuit of its strategic objective of leveraging parliamentary diplomacy as a tool for national development, Parliament successfully hosted the **66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference from 30th September to 6th October 2023**. Held under the theme "**The Commonwealth Charter 101 years on; values and principles for Parliaments to uphold**", the Conference provided a platform for over **700 delegates** including Speakers, Presiding Officers, observers, spouses/accompanying persons and Staff of over **180 Parliaments** across the Commonwealth to share experiences and practices that promote democracy and good governance, human rights, security, and economic development.

4.2.6. 30th Anniversary of the Parliament of the Fourth Republic

Parliament in 2023 commenced a year-long celebration of the '30th Anniversary of Uninterrupted Parliamentary Democracy in the Fourth Republic'. As part of the celebrations, Parliament organised public fora, youth Parliament, mock Parliament, sporting activities and health walks in 10 Regions across the Country to foster civic engagement and enhance public awareness about the significance of parliamentary democracy.

The public engagements were also used to obtain valuable feedback from the electorate on the performance of Parliament over the past 30 years and possible areas of reform.

5.0. OUTLOOK FOR 2024

5.1. Operational Outlook

For the 2024 Financial Year, Parliament plans to continue the implementation of the ongoing programmes aimed at improving the deliberative, information-dissemination, legislative, financial control, oversight and representational functions of the House and also promote service delivery by the Parliamentary Service to support the work of Parliament. To this end, Parliament will continue to pursue the implementation of the Medium - Term Strategic Objectives as specified in the Parliament Strategic Plan (2024-2027) as outlined in its Mission Statement under Item 3.0 above.

5.2. 2024 Budgetary Allocation

For the implementation of the above programmes and activities, the Parliament of Ghana has been allocated the sum of **One Billion, Twenty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,022,482,803)** for the 2024 financial year.

A breakdown of the allocation is provided in table 2:

Table 2: Summary of 2024 Budgetary Allocation by Economic Classification

Economic Classifications	(GH¢)
Compensation	452,482,803
Goods and Services	436,000,000
Capital Expenditure	134,000,000
Grand Total	1,022,482,803

Sources: The PBB Estimates for the Parliament of Ghana for the year 2024.

Table 3: Details of 2024 Budgetary Allocation of Goods and Services by Programmes

Economic classifications	(GH¢)	Per cent (%) of Allocation
Management and Administration	171,587,306	39.35
Parliamentary Business	255,692,694	58.65
Information Support Services	8,720,000	2
Grand Total	436,000,000	100%

Sources: The PBB Estimates for the Parliament of Ghana for the year 2024.

6.0. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1. Recommendation of the President on Parliament's Budgetary Requirement

The Committee noted that in accordance with Section 15A of the Parliamentary Service Act, 1993 (Act 460) (as Amended), the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana

Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has approved and recommended an amount of **One Billion, Twenty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,022,482,803)**, representing 92% of the request by Parliament for the services of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service for the 2024 Financial Year.

Table 4 below provides the details in respect of the requirements of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service and the recommendation by H.E. the President.

Table 4: President’s Recommendation compared to Parliament’s Requirement for 2024

Economic Classifications	Budget Requirements (GH¢)	President’s Recommendation (GH¢)	Percent Recommended
Compensation	452,364,802.00	452,482,803	100%
Goods and Services	445,286,423.83	436,000,000	98%
Capital Expenditure	209,691,925.15	134,000,000	64%
Total	1,107,461,151.78	1,022,482,803	92%

Source: President’s Recommendation Letter on the 2024 Budgetary Allocation to Parliament and Parliamentary Service.

The President further recommends to Parliament and Parliamentary Service to keep expenditure within the recommended ceilings in order to contain expenditure within the overall fiscal space for 2024.

6.2. Construction of Constituency Offices for Members of Parliament

The Committee noted with concern that the construction of 45 Constituency Offices for Members of Parliament could not commence as expected, although provisions were made in the 2023 Financial Year for the project.

The Committee was informed that there are conditions precedent to the commencement of the project. These include permits or documentation for the acquisition of Title Deeds covering the land which must be in the name of Parliament and the approval of the Architectural Designs for the building by the Parliamentary Service Board. The Committee noted that so far, only ten Members have presented documents covering the land to the Clerk, and the Architectural Designs are yet to be approved by the Parliamentary Service Board. The Committee was however, assured that preparations are far advanced for the project to commence in the 2024 Financial Year.

The Committee therefore encourages Hon. Members to follow up and present the required documentation covering the land procured for the Project so that the Technical Committee can be constituted by Parliament to authenticate the lands in 2024 in preparation for the commencement of actual construction works.

The Committee again, urges the Board to fast-track the process to approve the Architectural designs to start the project as planned.

The Committee noted that the President's recommendation which is eight percent (8%) short of the budgetary requirement of Parliament will make it difficult for the House to undertake the construction of the intended 45 number Constituency Offices in the 2024 financial year.

The Committee recommends to the Rt. Hon. Speaker and Leadership to take up the matter with the Presidency and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the necessary resources are made available to the House to undertake this critical infrastructure project.

In view of the immense benefits of the project in facilitating the representational role of Members and Parliament, the Committee urges all Members to take steps to submit their land documents and the necessary permits to the Office of the Clerk without delay.

The Committee reiterates that the parcel of land procured shall have to be in the name of the respective District Assemblies or the Parliamentary Service to avoid political colouration and ensure inclusive ownership of the project.

6.3 Beefing up Security in Parliament and MPs

The Committee commended the Rt. Hon Speaker and the Leadership of Parliament for the continuous efforts in improving the security situations in Ghana.

The Committee however, believes that the security situation in Parliament and Members of Parliament is still at the level of insufficiency and fragility. The Committee accordingly urges the Rt. Hon Speaker and the Leadership to allocate more resources in improving the security situation in the precincts of Parliament, and for Members of Parliament in particular.

6.4. Maintenance of Facilities in the Precincts Parliament

The Committee was informed that the Parliamentary Service has established a Department of Facilities Management to help ensure the proper maintenance of facilities of the House, including the places of convenience. Whilst welcoming the establishment of the Department, the Committee encourages the Department to intensify the supervision of janitorial services provided within the precincts of Parliament and to ensure the consistent cleaning and supply of the basic items needed for the place.

The Status of elevators in the Job 600 Complex is shambolic. The Committee therefore recommends that the Maintenance Department has to assess the performance with a view to procuring new much more efficient system as soon as practicable.

6.5. Provision of Laptops for Members and Staff

The Committee noted that as part of the capital expenditure programmed for 2024, the Parliamentary Service will procure and distribute 600 pieces of laptops for distribution to Hon Members, Senior Staff and Clerks of the Parliamentary Service. This is aimed at facilitating the work of the House and deepening the digitalisation agenda of Parliament.

6.6. Resources for Critical Oversight Committees

The Committee observed the important role played by critical oversight Committees of the House such as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Committee on Government Assurances (CGAs).

The Committee thus noted the need to put special arrangements in place to adequately resource these Committees in order to ensure that Parliament's oversight function is effectively and efficiently performed.

As well, the various Select Committees must be encouraged after the passage of the Appropriation Bill to commence investigation and inquiry into the activities and administration of the various MDAs in order that the country and the citizens shall have value for money in the fund allocated to the various MDAs.

In this regard, the Committee recommends to the Clerk to have regular interactions with the Leadership of the Committees to review their programmes and budget allocations to be able to address some of the critical concerns regarding the guidelines for the utilisation of funds.

6.7. Recruitment of Administrative and Research Officers for MPs

The Committee expressed concerns about the recruitment processes of Administrative and Research Officers to support Member in their work and requests the Clerk to speed up the processes to ensure that Members have the full complements of their offices.

The Committee was informed that, indeed, adequate provisions were made in the 2023 Budget of Parliament for Members to recruit Research and Administrative Officers of their choice through the Parliamentary Service. However, the recruitment processes of these Officers must also conform to the requirements of the Public Service.

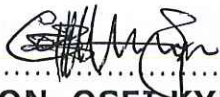
The Committee therefore, urges Members to cooperate with the Board to ensure that the qualified persons are recruited to augment their work as Members of Parliament.

7.0 CONCLUSION

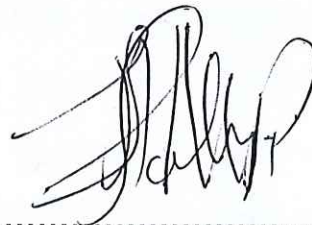
The Committee has carefully examined the Programme Based Budget Estimates for Parliament and the Parliamentary Service and found the programmes and policies planned for the 2024 financial year to be necessary towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Parliament of Ghana.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to adopt this report and approve the sum of **One Billion, Twenty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,022,482,803)** for the services of Parliament and the Parliamentary Service for the 2024 financial year.

Respectfully submitted.



.....
HON. OSEI KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU
(MAJORITY LEADER & CHAIRMAN,
SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)



.....
JOANA S.A ADJEI (MRS.)
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)



21ST DECEMBER 2023