

**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND FORESTRY
AND MINES AND ENERGY**

ON THE 2016 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2016 fiscal year was presented to Parliament by the Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Seth Terkper on Friday, 13th November, 2015 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources were accordingly referred to the Committee on Lands and Forestry, and Mines and Energy for consideration and report pursuant to Orders 140(4), 177 and 188 of the Standing Orders of the House.

1.2 During the consideration of the referral, the Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Nii Osah Mills, other Officials of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and its agencies and the Schedule Officers from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. The Committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

1.3 **AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry has three Sectors namely, Lands, Forestry and Mines. The Land Sector is managed by two agencies, that is, the Lands Commission (L.C) and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL). The Forestry Sector is also managed by the Forestry Commission (FC). The Mines Sector is managed by three agencies and these are the Minerals Commission, the Geological Survey Department (GSD) and the Precious Mineral Marketing Company (PMMC).

2.0 **REFERENCES**

2.1 The Committee used the under-listed as reference materials during its deliberations:

- (i) The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- (ii) The Standing Orders of the House
- (iii) The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the year ending 31st December, 2015

- (iv) The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2016-2018 and the draft Annual Estimates for 2016 of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.
- (v) The Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for 2016.

3.0 **MISSION STATEMENT**

3.1 The Mission Statement of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is to ensure sustainable management and utilization of the nation's land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources for the socio-economic development and growth of Ghana. This is to be achieved through:

- (i) Efficient formulation, implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes of the sector agencies.
- (ii) Efficient management of public and stool lands as a means to ensure equitable land delivery.
- (iii) Promoting effective inter-agency and cross-sectorial linkages.
- (iv) Promoting sustainable and efficient forest, wildlife and mineral resource management and utilization.
- (v) Creating an enabling environment for effective private sector participation.
- (vi) Promoting effective community participation in multiple uses of land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources.

4.0 **OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The Mission of the Ministry will be realized through the pursuit of the under-listed objectives:
- (i) Develop and manage sustainably, land, forest, wildlife and mineral resources;
 - (ii) Facilitate equitable access, benefit sharing from and security to land, forest and mineral resources;
 - (iii) Promote public awareness and local communities' participation in sustainable management and utilization of forest, wildlife, land and mineral resources;

- (iv) Review, update and consolidate existing legislation and policies affecting natural resource management;
- (v) Promote and facilitate effective private sector participation in land service delivery, forest, wildlife and mineral resource management and utilization;
- (vi) Develop and maintain effective institutional capacity and capability at the national, regional, district and community levels for land, forest, wildlife and mineral service delivery;
- (vii) Develop and research into problems of forest, wildlife, mineral resources and land use; and
- (viii) Build regional and global linkages toward the management of natural resources.

5.0 **PERFORMANCE FOR 2015 AND OUTLOOK FOR 2016**

5.1 **LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

The Land Administration Project (LAP) completed the development of a National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) to guide development for the next 20 years (from 2015 to 2035). Nineteen Customary Land Secretariats (CLSs) were established throughout the country.

An integrated and Re-engineered Business Process of all the four divisions of the Lands Commission was completed. The integrated process is being piloted through the Client Service and Access Units (CSAUs) by the Lands Commission in five regions (Greater Accra, Eastern, Western, Northern and Upper East Regions).

Policy documents for Survey and Mapping, National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and Geodetic Reference Network (GRN) were completed in 2015. The National Geospatial Policy will be finalized and submitted to Cabinet for consideration and approval in 2016.

The Lands Commission cleared the backlog of land title applications pending at the Land Title Registry in Accra. A computerized database containing all applications covering the

years 1988 to 2010 was created to facilitate the categorized backlog. Approximately 52,000 files were cleared and over 4,000 title certificates issued in 2015.

5.2 **FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

In 2015, the Forestry Commission established 2,314ha of forest plantations under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. The Commission will continue with the maintenance of all established forest plantations including coppice management of harvested areas across the country in 2016.

As part of the Ministry's efforts to promote the utilization of lesser used timber species and the development of the Bamboo and Rattan Industry, a Craft Village was commissioned at Ayi Mensah in Accra to relocate all artisans producing bamboo and rattan products. In 2016, the Ministry will continue with this promotion efforts.

In 2015, the Ministry should have signed an agreement with a strategic investor to convert the Achimota forest into an eco-tourism facility under a Public Private Partnership arrangement but this has been delayed. The Accra Eco-park project which is scheduled to commence in 2016 is made up of seven (7) components. These are the Visitor Reception, Amusement Park, Orchard, Walk & Drive Safari, Arboretum and botanical gardens, a Cultural Village, a Spiritual and Ecolodges.

As part of measures to strengthen law enforcement, 14 Rapid Response Teams (RRT) were resourced and deployed to curb illegal activities in Ho, Bekwai, Bibiani, Ankasa Conservation Area, and Bui National Park. In addition, 125 ha of illegal farms within forest reserves were also destroyed nationwide. In 2016, the Commission will intensify law enforcement and deploy more Rapid Response Teams to hotspots across the country to stem illegal activities, especially chainsaw and galamsey operations.

Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the Government of Ghana and the European Union (EU), is expected to ensure that only legally produced timber is exported to the EU market. Over 92 percent of the Wood Tracking System was completed and rolled

out in Western, parts of Brong-Ahafo and Eastern regions. The implementation of the VPA will continue and be expanded to cover other regions in 2016.

In 2016, the Public Wood Procurement Policy and the revised Forestry Development Master Plan will be implemented along-side the Forest and Wildlife Policy of 2012. The Commission will continue with policy and legislative reforms in the forestry sector.

5.3 **LAND AND MARITIME BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Following a successful defense of Ghana's submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), the UN extended the Continental Shelf beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e. beyond 200 Nautical Miles).

In 2016, the Ministry through the Ghana Boundary Commission will continue with the inspection of buffer zones and checks on status of planted teak trees along Ghana's international Land boundaries, planting and re-planting of teak trees in buffer zones, surveying and re-fixing of destroyed boundary posts along all the international boundaries, inspection and maintenance of regional, and district boundaries.

5.4 **MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

In 2015, the Ministry enforced the purchase and utilization of eight local items by 10 mining companies operating in Ghana. The items included grinding media, explosives, cement and cement products, electric cables, quick and hydrated lime, HDPE & PVC pipes and general lubricants. This strategy is to ensure that mining companies comply with the local content requirements under the Ghana Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663).

6.0 THE APPROVED BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELEASES FOR 2015 AS SHOWN IN

TABLE 1

| | GOG | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| ITEM | Approved Budget for 2015 | Actual Release for 2015 | Differences | Differences as a Percentage of the Approved Budget Estimates for the year 2015 |
| COMPENSATION | 88,837,739 | 66,435,224 | 22,402,515 | 25 |
| GOODS AND SERVICES | 4,321,848 | 1,103,504 | 3,218,344 | 74 |
| ASSETS | 800,000 | 0 | 800,000 | 100 |
| TOTAL | 93,959,587 | 67,538,728 | 26,420,859 | 28 |

| | IGF | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| ITEM | Approved Budget for 2015 | Actual Release for 2015 | Differences | Differences as a Percentage of the Approved Budget Estimates for the year 2015 |
| COMPENSATION | 17,042,269 | 12,786,310 | 4,255,959 | 75 |
| GOODS AND SERVICES | 73,834,579 | 70,411,562 | 3,423,017 | 95 |
| ASSETS | 38,438,955 | 34,297,753 | 4,141,202 | 89 |
| TOTAL | 129,315,803 | 117,495,625 | 11,820,178 | 91 |

| ITEM | DONOR | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Approved Budget for 2015 | Actual Release for 2015 | Differences | Differences as a Percentage of the Approved Budget Estimates for the year 2015 |
| GOODS AND SERVICES | 10,591,846 | 8,590,548 | 2,001,298 | 81 |
| ASSETS | 42,367,388 | 20,690,441 | 21,676,947 | 49 |
| TOTAL | 52,959,234 | 29,280,989 | 23,678,245 | 55 |

6.1 OUTLOOK FOR 2016

THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

TABLE 2

| ITEM | Budget Allocation for 2016 | GH¢ |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| COMPENSATION | GOG | 100,318,537 |
| | IGF | 20,498,970 |
| | Sub-Total | 120,817,507 |
| GOODS AND SERVICES | GOG | 2,160,924 |
| | IGF | 76,572,427 |
| | DONOR | 9,265,996 |
| | SUB-TOTAL | 87,999,347 |
| ASSETS | GOG | 0 |
| | IGF | 47,965,805 |
| | DONOR | 37,063,986 |
| | SUB-TOTAL | 85,029,791 |
| TOTAL | | 293,846,645 |

7.0 **OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

NON- RELEASE OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR ASSETS

The Committee observed that there were no releases for assets in 2015. The situation affected the purchase of equipment and materials for the effective running of the Ministry; and for the maintenance of the main reception which has caved-in and has become a threat to human life.

It is recommended that the allocation be made for Capital Expenditure/ Fixed Assets on time to enable the main reception to be rehabilitated.

PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT

The Committee also observed that since 2012 there has been no releases for plantation development. This situation affected the maintenance of various plantation in the country.

To address this challenge, the Committee is of the view that the Forestry Sector is considered as part of the agricultural modernization programme to enable the Sector benefit from the Annual Budget Funding Allocation (ABFA).

To this end, the Committee wishes to indicate the correlation between Fossil fuel emissions and Forestry and the absorption of carbon dioxide to mitigate Climate Change.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Committee observed with concern the incessant illegal activities of Chainsaw and galamsey operators; and the presence of alien Fulani herdsmen whose activities continue to destroy our forest plantations and also pose danger to staff of the Forestry Commission.

It is in this regard, that the Committee is recommending that the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission be properly trained and adequately resourced to respond to some of these challenges including threat from poachers in our Game Reserves.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

The Committee noted with concern some lands that were acquired compulsorily through the exercise of State powers for the use of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Ghana Highway Authority but compensation was not fully paid to the original land owners which created avenue for encroachment. The original land owners whilst demanding additional compensation have sought a court order to garnishee the bank account of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources thereby crippling the operations of the Ministry.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should engage all parties in this matter to find ways of addressing the problem.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSUMER SERVICE ACCESS UNITS (CSAU's)

The Committee also observed that the Lands Commission has begun the process of re-engineering its business processes to ensure a standardised decentralized procedures for land registration. This is an integrated programme of all the four divisions of the Commission aimed at removing duplications in the registration process and being implemented through the establishment of Client Service Access Units (CSAU's) in five selected regions namely, Bolgatanga, Tamale, Sekondi, Koforidua and Accra. All the five CSAU's have been inaugurated and are currently operational.

It is therefore the expectation of the Committee that the new process will remove the bottlenecks in land administration and improve service delivery. The Committee also realizes the need for the new programme to be extended to other parts of the country accordingly urges the Lands Commission to expedite action in that regard.

GHANA SCHOOL OF SURVEY AND MAPPING

As part of the reforms within the land sector, the Committee observed the need to develop professionals in Survey and Mapping to meet challenges in Ghana's spatial development efforts.

In this regard, the Committee is urging the Ministry to liaise with the Lands Commission to acquire more facilities for the Ghana School of Survey and Mapping.

NON-PAYMENT OF MINERAL ROYALTIES

The Committee also noted that there has been outstanding payment of minerals royalties to the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) from June, 2013 to September, 2015 by the Ministry of Finance. The outstanding payment currently stands at One Hundred and Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Three Cedis, Eleven Pesewas **(GH¢108,824,903.11)**.

There is also the challenge of inadequate staff to help in the collection of revenue for the organisation and the inability of the administrator to replace staff who have gone on retirement.

The Committee would like to appeal to the Ministry to engage the Ministry of Finance to find ways of addressing these challenges.

INCREASED LOCAL CONTENT IN THE MINING SECTOR

The Committee noted the increased local content in the mining sector and the need to maximize benefit from the country's mineral resources through the procurement of local goods and services in the Mining Sector.

Eight (8) locally made mining consumables were therefore used by the mining companies. These mining consumables included grinding media, explosives, cement and cement products, electric cables, quick and hydrated lime, HDPEX PVC pipes and general lubricants.

It is the view of the Committee that the use of the country's locally made mining consumables will contribute significantly towards achieving targets under the country's local content aspirations.

CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS IN MINING COMMUNITIES

The Committee also observed that the Minerals Commission had rolled out a number of sustainable alternative livelihood projects in 2015 to improve economic activities of the people in the mining communities. As part of the project, the Minerals Commission distributed about 150,000 oil palm seedlings to Ten (10) mining communities towards the creation of palm plantation.

The Committee recommends that funds be allocated to the Commission to continue with the implementation of the palm plantation project and activities such as land clearing and the procurement of fertilizers that will help improve the socio-economic development of the mining communities.

FUNDING OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT

The Committee also observed that the Geological Survey Department continues to face serious financial challenges due to inadequate budgetary allocation to be able to meet its objectives. The Committee wishes to implore the Ministry to expedite action on the Draft Ghana Geological Survey Authority Bill which is intended to help address the funding challenges of the department.

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

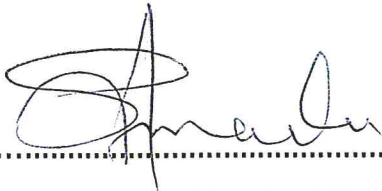
It was also noted that provision has been made in the 2016 Annual Budget Estimates for the recruitment of critical staff to beef up the staff strength of the department.

The Committee is urging the Ministry to take immediate steps to secure the financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance to enable the department undertake the planned recruitment exercise.

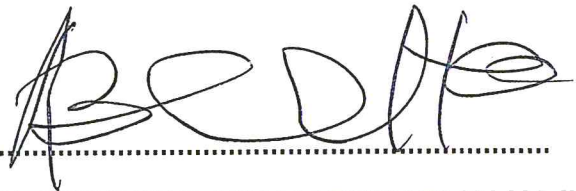
8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee having carefully examined the estimates recommends to the House to approve the sum **Two Hundred and Ninety Three Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Six Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢293,846,645.00)** for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for the 2016 financial year.

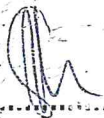
Respectfully Submitted.



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LANDS AND FORESTRY



HON. SOROGHO AMADU BUKARI (ALHAJI)
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON MINES & ENERGY



MR. SAMUEL ADDEI
CLERK, COMMITTEE ON
LANDS AND FORESTRY



MS. PEACE FIAWOYIFE
CLERK, COMMITTEE ON MINES & ENERGY

DECEMBER, 2015
