

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS**

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ON THE

**2017 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS ON THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2017 Financial Year was presented to the House on Thursday 2nd March 2017 by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution. Pursuant to Order 140(4) and 182 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications to the Committee on Communications for consideration and report.

The Committee subsequently met with the Hon. Minister for Communications, Mrs Ursula Owusu-Ekuful and her team on Thursday 16th March, 2017 and considered the referral.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee availed itself of the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament.
- iii. The 2016 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Communications.
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2016 Financial Year.

- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2017 Financial Year.

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The Ministry exists to facilitate the development of a reliable and cost-effective world-class communications infrastructure and services, driven by appropriate technological innovations and accessible by all citizens to enhance the promotion of economic competitiveness in a knowledge-based environment.

4.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES IN LINE WITH GSGDA II

The following are the policy objectives of the Ministry:

- i. To promote rapid development and deployment of national ICT infrastructure.
- ii. To strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework for managing the ICT subsector.
- iii. To increase the use of ICT in all sectors of the economy.
- iv. To facilitate the provision of quality meteorological data and forecast in support of weather sensitive sectors of the economy.

5.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The policies and programmes of the Ministry are implemented by the underlisted Agencies and Departments under its purview:

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- 1. Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet).
 - 2. Data Protection Commission (DPC).

3. National Identification Authority (NIA).
4. Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) .
5. National Information Technology Agency (NITA).
6. Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC).
7. Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication (GIFEC).
8. National Communication Authority (NCA).
9. Ghana Post Company Limited (GPCL).

6.0 PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR 2016

6.1 A budgetary provision of GH¢292,861,427.00 was made to the Ministry of Communications for its programmes and activities for the 2016 financial year.

However, it is important to recall that from year 2013 to 2016, the Ministry of Information was subsumed under the Ministry of Communications. Therefore, the allocation made was to cater for both the communications and information outfits. Out of the total allocation, an amount of GH¢167,335,571.00 was provided for the communications outfit. Table 1 shows the 2016 breakdown of the allocation and releases to the communications outfit.



Table 1 – Breakdown of 2016 budgetary allocation and releases

TEM	COMPENSATION			GOODS AND SERVICES			CAPEX		
	APPROVED BUDGET GH¢	RELEASE GH¢	EXPENDITURE GH¢	APPROVED BUDGET GH¢	RELEASE GH¢	EXPENDITURE GH¢	APPROVED BUDGET GH¢	RELEASE GH¢	EXPENDITURE GH¢
FOG	12,018,565	9,235,122	9,235,122	691,190	183,717	183,717	0	0	0
GF							8,189,549	3,980,816	3,974,293
DONOR							146,436,267	77,878,294	77,878,294
TOTAL	12,018,565	9,235,122	9,235,122	691,190	183,717	183,717	154,625,816	81,859,110	81,852,587

6.2 The Committee observed that the shortfall in the compensation amount was due to the fact that some salary related allowance and ministerial board allowances were not paid. The overall release of GH¢91,277,949.00 representing 54.5% of the sum provided to the Communications outfit was inadequate to enable them carry out their programmes and activities for 2016. In spite of the shortfall, the Ministry was able to implement the following activities, among others:

i. **Telecom Sector**

The telecommunications sector continued to register impressive growth rates in subscription as a result of an enabling environment and investment in infrastructure development by service providers.

The total telephone subscription for both mobile and fixed lines as at November 2016 stood at 38,185,312 representing 7.59% growth over the December 2015 figure of 35,283,957. Mobile data subscription as of December 2016 stood at 19,364,442 representing 69.06%, an increase of 6.9% over the December 2015 figure of 18,031,188.

ii. **Digital Terrestrial Television**

The Ministry commenced the construction of the Digital Terrestrial Television Platform infrastructure to enable Ghana migrate from analogue to digital television broadcasting. The first and second phases of the project covering Greater Accra, Ashanti, Volta, Northern, Upper West and Upper East Regions, have been completed and are operating. This was financed from the proceeds of the sale of spectrum by the NCA after cabinet approval.

The Ministry commenced campaigns to create awareness and prepare broadcasters and the citizenry for the change. The campaign also aimed at advising the public against patronising sub-standard digital receivers on the market.

iii. **E-Government Infrastructure Project**

The Ministry completed the e-Government Infrastructure platform project to improve internet connectivity for all MDAs and MMDAs, enhance information flow, service delivery and revenue generation. All the 120 LTE sites were completed and 100 operationalised as at December 2016.

iv. **E-Parliament**

The Ministry began the installation of a system to allow paperless flow of information within the Parliament of Ghana. The System Requirement

Specification (SRS) defining the blueprint for e-Parliament is at 60% completion level. 30% payment for hardware has been made and deliveries are presently being cleared at the ports. The e-Parliament system is expected to be completed by December 2017.

v. **National Cyber Security Policy**

To ensure protection for critical national information infrastructure from cyber security threats and attacks, the Ministry developed a cyber-security policy document which received Cabinet approval.

7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2017

The Ministry of Communications has been allocated a sum of **GH¢367,487,428.00** for its programmes and activities for the year 2017. This comprises GH¢132,513,397.00 as GOG; an IGF of GH¢13,877,835.00 and a Donor component of GH¢ 221,096,196.00. The breakdown of the allocation is shown in table 2. **Table 2: Breakdown of 2017 Allocation by source of funding and economic classification**

ITEM	COMPENSATION	GOODS & SERVICES	CAPEX	TOTAL
GOG	24,913,397.00	11,000,000.00	96,600,000.00	132,513,397.00
IGF	315,925.00	10,492,861.00	3,069,049.00	13,877,835.00
DONOR	-	44,219,239.00	176,876,957.00	221,096,196.00
TOTAL	25,229,322.00	65,712,100.00	276,546,006.00	367,487,428.00

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2017

The Ministry intends to apply its allocation of GH¢367,487,428.00 to undertake a number of programmes and activities, some of which are captured below:

i. DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION

In line with the Ministry's objective of building a digital terrestrial television platform to ensure that Ghana migrates from analogue to digital television, the Ministry will, in 2017, monitor the digital transmission services nationwide before switching off the analogue television on 21st September 2017. In this regard, the Ministry will intensify sensitization and public awareness campaigns on the transition from analogue to digital TV. Furthermore, to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply for the digital sign transmission, the Ministry would procure and install dedicated power transformers for the phase II and III sites.

ii. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- **Development of Western Corridor Fibre Project**

In pursuance of the Ministry's vision of widening internet access across the country, it will continue to expand its broadband infrastructure to cover the western corridor and offshore oil and gas exploration areas. This will involve building some terrestrial fibre at the south western part of the country. The project will provide the link to connect to the Eastern Corridor Fibre to enhance its robustness and reliability. To derive the needed revenue from the investment, the Ministry will expedite commercialisation of the project to enable it pay off its loans and start earning revenue from the project.

- **ICT Park Development**

The government recognises that promoting entrepreneurship among the youth is critical for tapping their potentials and creating jobs for

national development. In this regard, the Ministry will construct an ICT Park to accelerate research and development and entrepreneurship among the youth. A partnership agreement with the republic of Mauritius is expected to be finalised by the Ministry for the former to invest about USD200 million in the ICT Park at Dawa in the Greater Accra Region.

iii. **ICT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

• **Girls in ICT**

The Girls in ICT Programme, which is intended to help young girls generate interest in ICT, will be pursued. This programme will provide the platform for girls and young maidens to interact with mentors within the ICT sector. The programme will also offer training for 1000 girls from various educational institutions.

• **Ghana's Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative**

ICT has today, become one of the most important tools for development. Notwithstanding its immense benefits, one cannot also underestimate the threats the wrongful use of ICT could pose, particularly to our youth. Thus, to fight the menace of cyber predators, online bullying and sexual inducements, the Ministry will monitor the implementation of the Child Online Protection Initiative to ensure that the cyber space is safe for children and young people. The Ministry will commence the implementation of the framework and operational plan for the COP and sensitisation of the initiative.

iv. **ACCRA DIGITAL CENTRE**

The already completed Accra Digital Centre is expected to be operationalised in the course of the year. The Centre is the creation of a clustering effect among Information Technology Enabled Services secretariat (ITES)/Business Processes Outsourcing (BPO) companies to open up job opportunities and help nurture

entrepreneurs to enable Ghana emerge as a preferred destination for ITES/BPOs industry. The Committee was informed that some companies have expressed interest in locating at the Centre, which will operate 24 hours. It is expected that about ten thousand direct and indirect jobs will be generated from the operations of the Centre. The Committee was informed that People in the catchment area will be given the opportunity to be trained in ICT to take advantage of jobs to be created. In particular, the Centre will highlight the training of girls in ICT to enable them work as Digital Centre Operatives in the BPOs.

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Budgetary Allocation

9.1.1 The Committee observed that out of the total allocation of GH¢367,487,428.00 made to the Ministry for year 2017, an amount of GH¢112,464,027.00 will go to fund the activities of the National Identification Authority (NIA). It is interesting to know that the Ministry's Headquarters has been allocated an amount of GH¢224,687,656.00. However, out of this amount, GH¢221,096,196.00 will be committed to two projects – the Integrated National Security Communications Enhancement Network for the Western Corridor Oil and Gas Project, and the E-Transform Project. This therefore leaves the Headquarters with a paltry sum of GH¢3,591,460.00 to expend on Compensation, Goods & Services and Capital Expenditure.

9.1.2 It came to the attention of the Committee that the Integrated National Security Communications Enhancement Network for the Western Corridor Oil and Gas Project, which is funded by China Development Bank Corporation benefits the National Security outfit and was not situated within the Ministry of Communications. However the inclusion of the project amount of GH¢128,735,892.00 in the budget to the Ministry swelled up its entire allocation, giving an erroneous impression that the Ministry had been provided a substantial budget.

9.1.3 The Committee expressed concern about the fact that the cost of a project, which is not managed by the Ministry has been included in its budget, raising concerns about the Ministry's locus to manage the execution of that portion of its budget and this Committee's own ability to exercise oversight. The Ministry explained that at the time the project commenced, there was no Ministry for National Security, therefore as a communications enhancement project, the Project was channeled through the Ministry of Communications. On why the cost of the project still found its way into the 2017 budget of the Ministry even after the establishment of the Ministry of National security, the Committee was informed that the project was nearing completion and was therefore advisable to allow the existing arrangement to remain.

9.2 **Irregular/non-release of funds**

An issue of concern that came up was the non-release/irregular release of funds. The Committee noted, for instance, that out of an approved budget of GH¢691,190.00 for Goods and Services for 2016, only GH¢183,717.00 was released. The Ghana-India Kofi Annan ICT Centre and the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) did not receive releases for Goods and Services. It is ironical that employees continue to be paid salaries but are not provided with the necessary tools and logistics to work with thereby affecting the implementation of planned programmes. For institutions to achieve the optimum level of productivity, it is important that employees are not only given training but are also provided the requisite tools and logistics to work with.

9.3 **Internally Generated Funds**

9.3.1 The Committee noted that agencies such as Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet), Data Protection Agency, the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission and the National Identification Authority generate and retain portions of IGF to support their operations. In year 2017, the Ministry has projected to raise an amount of GH¢13,877,835.00 as IGF.

9.3.2 The Committee was however informed that the generation of internal funds is undermined by the non-payment for services rendered by these agencies to other MMDAs. For example, the GMet is finding it extremely difficult to recover monies owed it for the provision of meteorological data being used by the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and the Ghana Airport Company Ltd. This situation affected GMet's revenues for 2016 and thus impacted negatively on some planned activities. NITA is facing a similar challenge with regard to services rendered to MMDAs. Currently, a total amount of GH¢1,646,892.50 is owed NITA by about ninety government agencies and institutions for services rendered to them.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry puts in place urgent measures to ensure that services rendered by its Agencies are paid to enable them have the needed resources to operate.

9.3.3 The Committee observed that apart from Kofi Annan ICT Centre, all agencies under the Ministry are allowed to retain a percentage of their IGF to support their operations. The Committee acknowledges that the operations of the Centre in terms of delivering IT training programmes to its numerous clients within schedule largely depends on constant electricity supply and availability of requisite logistics. The Committee therefore recommends that given the limited GoG allocations and the non-release of funds to the Centre, some dispensation should be given to allow the Centre retain part of its IGF to support its critical operations in year 2017.

9.3.4 Generally, it was worrying to note that a number of the Agencies did not properly report on their IGF. The Committee considers this practice unacceptable and therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to strictly enforce guidelines governing the generation and retention of IGF.

9.4 Staffing

9.4.1 The I.T industry is a technical field that requires people with high level of expertise to nurture and advance it. A major challenge confronting the Agencies under the Ministry is the lack of requisite personnel.

The Committee was informed that NITA for instance is unable to attract the necessary technical staff of IT Engineers and Technological Information officers due to low remuneration. Currently, there are only two qualified staff at its network operating centre. Hence, in the absence of one of them, NITA finds it extremely difficult to attend to emergencies from other MDAs. NITA's situation is also compounded by the fact that it has not received financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance to recruit staff.

9.4.2 The Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission requires a staff strength of twenty-two to enable it carry out its mandate effectively. Currently, the Commission has ten staff, eight permanent and two on secondment. For year 2017, the Commission intends among others to increase its efforts to clamp down on illegal operators and intensify monitoring of licensed operators. The Commission will therefore require additional staff to enable it undertake these activities. In this regard, the Committee was informed that the Commission has received approval from the public services commission to recruit six additional staff, but is still awaiting financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance.

9.4.3 The Ghana Meteorological Agency on the other hand has lost a significant number of its staff to retirement, deaths and resignation. The number of staff at most of the regional and district offices has reduced, necessitating the need for the few staff to work overtime. The number of personnel assigned to collect data has shrunk considerably. For instance due to inadequate technical staff, the Agency finds it difficult to fully meet its capacity to provide meteorological data to the aviation industry; agro meteorological data to the agricultural sector, marine meteorological data to the ports and harbor industry and hydrology and climatology data to energy, civil and other sectors of the economy. This, the Committee was informed, has affected the Agency's performance and general output. The Agency urgently requires at least, 25 qualified Assistant Meteorologists to strengthen its human resource capacity. However, it

has not been able to secure financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance to recruit.

9.4.4 The technical nature of the work of the agencies under the Ministry requires people with specific skills and knowledge. It is expected that given the right caliber of staff, the agencies could perform at its optimum level and also generate more funds internally to the benefit of government. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to grant financial clearance to the agencies to recruit the needed staff.

9.5 **Accommodation**

9.5.1 The Committee noted that apart from NITA and Kofi Annan ICT Centre, the other agencies - Data Protection Commission (DPC), the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission, Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) and the National Identification Authority (NIA) have challenges with accommodation.

Data Protection Commission as well as Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission currently operate from rented premises. The Communications Ministry's effort to have the former head office of the National Communications Authority (NCA) allocated to the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission was unsuccessful. Since the practice of operating from rented premises is unsustainable in the long term, it has become necessary to secure a permanent accommodation or facilitate the acquisition of land to enable them plan towards putting up permanent offices in the not too distant future.

9.5.2 On the part of NIA, the Committee learnt with displeasure that the Authority's headquarters building which was completed in January 2009 had deteriorated. The tiles are falling off the walls from outside, making it a danger to be within certain parameters of the building. For the last 4 years, there has been no water in the building because the Authority could not pay for the bills. As an alternative, the Authority resorted to dig wells and pump the water thereof through the piping system. However, the salinity of the well water caused clogging in the piping system and

prevented the flow of water. Furthermore, the two elevators in the building as well as the air conditioners have broken down. This situation, the Committee was informed is partly attributable to the dwindling budgetary allocations to the Authority over the years, which has made it extremely difficult to maintain the building.

9.5.3 Similarly, most of the offices and residential quarters of Ghana Meteorological Agency have not seen any major rehabilitation since they were constructed in the 1950s. Staff of the Agency work under deplorable conditions thereby, affecting morale and productivity.

This unfortunate development generally brings to the fore the issue of poor maintenance culture, which has greater implications for cost and productivity in most public institutions in the country. There is therefore the need for us as country to imbibe the culture of maintenance and also commit resources for the maintenance of public properties.

9.6 Vehicles

9.6.1 Data Protection Commission has just one vehicle available for use by its 10 member staff, including the Executive Director. The Committee was informed that when the vehicle is not available, the Commission either resort to the use of taxis, or put activities on hold.

The situation of Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission is not different from the DPC. The Regulatory Commission has just one ten year old 4x4 pick-up for its operational activities. This prevents the staff from undertaking field assignments concurrently, which very often results in the reschedule of appointments.

9.6.2 The Committee was informed that although GMet made provision in the 2016 budget to acquire 4 pick-ups to support routine maintenance activities, it could not realise this objective due to the non-availability of resources. For year 2017, the Agency will require 10 pick-up vehicles to enable them provide field maintenance of meteorological observation stations spread across the country.

Generally, the nature of the work of the agencies, which requires frequent monitoring of facilities and provision of services to stakeholders outside the offices of the agencies, makes vehicles an indispensable tool for the effective performance of their functions. The lack of vehicles has undoubtedly impacted negatively on the performance of these agencies.

9.7 National Identification Authority

9.7.1 The National Identification Authority has the mandate to adopt cutting edge technology to provide client-based identification services for socio-economic development, good governance, safety and security for all citizens and eligible foreign nationals resident in Ghana. Per the NIA Act, 2006, (Act 707), all persons in Ghana and foreigners resident in Ghana for six months or more are to produce identity cards for proof of their identity for all public and private transactions where identity is required. However, the Committee was informed that inadequate allocation, over the years, to the Authority has impeded its ability to achieve its goals and objectives.

9.7.2 Notwithstanding the challenges, the Authority in year 2016, was able to register 2,775 resident Ghanaians, and issued 3,658 National Identity Cards to registered resident Ghanaians. It was also able to register and issue identity cards to 14,067 legally resident foreign nationals. Presently, the Authority is managing the biometric data of 4.5 million resident Ghanaians and 90,000 legally resident foreign nationals. The Committee was happy to note that institutions like banks and the Ghana police service use the Authority as a reference point for identity verification.

9.7.3 For the performance of its activities for year 2017, the Authority has been allocated an amount of GH¢112, 464,027.00, comprising Compensation of GH¢5,210,991.00; GH¢10,000,000.00 for Goods and Services; and an IGF component of GH¢7,253,036.00.

This year NIA intends to revamp the National Identification System (NIS) in line with its statutory mandate by issuing National Identity Cards to citizens and generally ensure the effective implementation of the NIS. The Authority intends to vigorously enforce the use of the non-citizen Ghana Card by eligible foreign nationals.

9.7.4 The Committee noted that other institutions are also holding separate biometric data of segments of the population, and it is important to have a one-stop shop for personal biometric data to avoid duplication and improve the credibility of such data. In this regard, the NIA plans to harmonise the regulatory framework, strengthen institutional co-ordination and integrate other public biometric databases into the National Identity Register.

Considering the important role of the Authority in National Identity Management for economic and socio-political development, the Committee recommends that the Authority be provided adequate resources to pursue its mandate.

9.8 The Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission

The Commission has been allocated a sum of GH¢1,220,669.00 for the implementation of its programmes for the 2017 fiscal year. This allocation is an improvement over the 2016 allocation of GH¢895,365.00. The Agency intends to apply its allocation to undertake the following, among others:

- i. Promote and expand postal and courier services for the social and economic development of the country.
- ii. Promote the advancement of technology related to the provision of postal and courier services.
- iii. Intensify monitoring of a minimum of 70 licensed operators.
- iv. Create public awareness in the activities of the Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission.

9.9 Kofi Annan ICT Centre

The Centre, in 2017, has been provided an amount of GH¢2,312,101.00. The Centre plans to deliver core training in networking, software development, mobile apps development, wireless and mobile computing and web apps development. It also plans to provide training (including executive programmes) for business and IT professionals; customized

work place courses; and consulting services to government, banking and corporate clients throughout West Africa.

9.10 National Information Technology Agency (NITA)

NITA has been allocated an amount of GH¢873,544.00 for the execution of its planned programmes and activities for year 2017. The Agency will continue to implement its projects of bringing up all its LTE Base stations to connect all the MDAs and MMDAs to the e-government network operating service (GIFMIS Platform) for increased efficiency in the public service. It also intends to commercialise the e-government infrastructure; fuel and service LTE base stations; purchase plant and equipment; and provide government open data for citizen use and feed back to promote transparency and accountability.

9.11 Data Protection Commission (DPC)

The DPC regulates the process to obtain, hold, use or disclose personal information and other related issues bordering on the protection of personal data. In 2016, the DPC created awareness of its programmes by reaching out to about 9 million stakeholders. This year, it intends to reach out to 11 million stakeholders through workshops, seminars, conferences and media campaigns. In year 2016, the DPC offered training and certification to 1,444 data controllers and processors across the country and successfully registered 262 data controllers/processors. The Commission will in 2017 continue with its training programme to cover 2000 data controllers/processors and register 500 of them.

9.12 Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet)

9.12.1 For the implementation of its programmes and activities for year 2017, GMet has been allocated an amount of GH¢24,761,973.00. The Agency plans among others to acquire some modern equipment to replace obsolete and broken ones, as the Agency's inability to replace obsolete and broken down weather equipment resulted in the closure of some Hydro, Climo and Agro weather stations.

9.12.2 The Committee was happy to note that in 2016, the Agency through its Donor Partners was able to procure and install 13 automatic weather stations (AWS). This equipment which requires very little human intervention enabled the Agency gather meteorological data in a more efficient manner to support national development. The Agency was able to provide climate and weather information to over six thousand farmers which enabled them take the appropriate farm management decisions. The Agency in year 2017 intends to procure and install 20 AWS for the provision of reliable climate data for its customers.

9.12.3 The Agency also plans to implement the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standard for International Air Navigation at the Kotoka International Airport (KIA) and Tamale Airport in Accra and Tamale respectively. This will help attract airlines into the country and thus make Ghana a hub for international air navigation in the West Africa Sub-Region, and thereby stimulate revenue generation and socio-economic development.

10.0 CONCLUSION

Undoubtedly, the communications sector is considered one of the most important and fast growing industries in the world. Presently, the sector contributes significant revenue for national development. For instance, as at September 2016, the Communications Service Tax (CST) revenue amounted to GH¢225.26 million cedis, while contributions from international incoming telephone traffic paid by the NCA to Government for the year 2016 amounted to US\$25.3 million.

In addition to its huge revenue potential, the communications industry has today become the fulcrum around which the world revolves as it facilitates easy connectivity and exchange between people, communities and continents, thereby promoting rapid socio-economic growth. To ensure that Ghana is not left behind in the communications evolution, it is important to provide the Ministry of Communications with the

resources that will enable the Ministry build the needed infrastructure, engage skilled expertise and institute the right regulatory framework to drive investments into the sector for job creation and improved productivity.

In the light of the above, the Committee recommends that the House approves the sum of **Three Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty Eight Cedis (GH¢367,487,428.00)** for the implementation of the Programmes and activities of the Ministry of Communications for the year ending 31st December, 2017.

Respectfully submitted

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**HON. KEN OHENE AGYAPONG
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS)**



**JANET FRIMPONG
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)**

MARCH 2017

