

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

REPORT OF THE

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ON THE

**2018 PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE
MINISTRY OF INNER-CITY AND ZONGO DEVELOPMENT**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
OSU - ACCRA

14TH DECEMBER, 2017

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Following the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December, 2018 by the Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta on 15th November, 2017, the 2018 Programme Based Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Inner-City and Zongo Development were referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

The Committee met with the Hon. Minister for Inner-City and Zongo Development, Hon Boniface Saddique, the Ag. Chief Director for the Ministry of Inner-City and Zongo Development, Mrs Gifty Mahama Biyira and the technical team from the Ministries of Finance and Inner-City and Zongo Development.

2.0 BACKGROUND

As part of the Government goals to drive development through production and job creation and to include the excluded in development, the Ministry was established to help accelerate development in Inner City and Zongo communities to ensure total development.

The Ministry's Goal is to facilitate a broad-based infrastructure, social and economic development of Inner City and Zongo Communities within the context of inclusive, resilient, safe human settlements and sustainable urban development.

The Core functions of the Ministry are to:

- Formulate and promote policies to deal with special needs of Inner-city and Zongo communities
- Initiate and coordinate research and review of policies, laws, rules and regulations affecting Inner-City and Zongo Communities, and
- Coordinate and implement planned programmes for the development of Inner city and Zongo Development.

3.0 PERFORMANCE FOR 2017

A major achievement of the Ministry for 2017 was the passage of the Zongo Development Fund Bill by Parliament. To achieve this, the Ministry held a series of stakeholder consultations. About 11,548 participants were involved. Participants included Members of Parliament, Development Partners, Imams, Christian groups, Zongo Chiefs, Private Sector, Women groups among others. The Bill is currently awaiting Presidential assent.

The Ministry is also collaborating with the Youth Employment Agency to employ about 4,500 personnel by the end of the year, out of which 3,000 would be Arabic instructors.

3.1 Summary of Budget Allocation and performance for 2017

For 2017, the Ministry was under the Office of Government Machinery (OGM) and as part of the OGM's Budget, an amount of **One Million Ghana cedis (GH¢1,000,000)** was released to the Ministry for Goods and Services. Actual Expenditure for the year amounted to **Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand Ghana cedis (GH¢580,000)**.

4.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2018

In furtherance of its mandate and stated objectives, the Ministry will undertake a number of activities for 2018 which include the following:

1. Establish a Zongo Development Fund Secretariat
2. Conduct Infrastructure audit in One Hundred (100) Zongo and Inner City communities
3. Reconstruct 60km of access roads in conjunction with the Ministry of Roads and Highways
4. Construct three football pitches

5. Create twenty community recreational parks
6. Plant and maintain three hundred trees and shrubs in selected Communities in conjunction with the Forestry Commission
7. Prepare a Culture and Tourism Promotion Plan for selected Inner-City and Zongo communities
8. Construct Ten (10) bailey bridges
9. Construct 30kms of tertiary drains
10. Undertake concrete paving of 100km of alleyways and public Pathways
11. Dredge/ de-silt 60km of tertiary and secondary drains
12. Commission Research to identify, catalogue and codify significant cultural and heritage assets of selected Inner-City and Zongo communities.

4.1 2018 Budget Allocation

For the implementation of the above programmes, a total amount of One Hundred and One Million, Nine Hundred and Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢101, 909, 970) has been allocated from GoG to the Ministry. The summary of the allocation for 2018 is shown in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1 – Allocation for 2018

Item	Budget Allocation
Compensation of Employees	350,000
Goods and Services	16,059,970
CAPEX	85,500,000
Total	101,909,970

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Challenges faced by the Ministry

The Minister informed the Committee that the Ministry is faced with a number of challenges. Key amongst them is lack of office space. Due to this, all the personnel are cramped in one office. Another challenge is inadequate logistics including vehicles and other office equipment. This is adversely affecting the execution of the Ministry's mandate.

5.2 Lack of Base Line data

The Committee was informed that data on the Zongos is inadequate. The Minister said that there is the need to update existing information in order to make it suitable.

It was revealed that the Ministry intends to undertake a nationwide census of the Zongo communities. This would go a long way to enable the Ministry plan more effective interventions for the Zongos.

5.3 Staff Strength of the Ministry

The Chief Director informed the Committee that the Ministry has a staff strength of ten (10). It also has six (6) workers seconded from other Ministries to assist the Ministry undertake its mandate.

The Minister indicated to the Committee that this number is inadequate and adversely affects the Ministry's operations. He said there is the need to have offices at the regional and zonal levels. With a staff ceiling of ten, it would be difficult to implement the Ministry's programmes.

5.4 Amount approved for 2017 for the Ministry

The Minister agreed with the Committee that for 2017 a total amount of One Million Ghana cedis (GH¢1 million) was approved for the Ministry to undertake its activities.

He explained that in 2017, the Ministry's budget was part of the budget of the Office of Government Machinery (OGM). He said as an Agency under the OGM, he applied to the Chief of Staff for additional funding to enable the Ministry to undertake its activities. It is in furtherance of this request that an additional amount of Twenty-One Million Ghana cedis (GH¢21,000,000) was released to the Ministry for its activities.

5.5 Criteria for selecting the location for the construction of astro turfs

The Minister responded that sports is one of the key interests of the kids and people residing in the Zongos. He also stated that a number of great footballers in the country who came to prominence came from the Zongos.

It is because of this that the Ministry, as part of its mandate of improving the wellbeing and social behavioral changes in the Zongos, sought to construct three astro turfs in three selected communities as pilot projects. The idea is to get the youth used to playing football on astro turfs. The turfs could also be used for social events in the communities.

He said the choice of the location was based on availability of land and record of successful footballers from the location. For the pilot, three Zongos were selected namely Madina, Kyebi and Walewale. He said if successful, it would be implemented throughout the country.

The Minister informed the Committee that the Ministry has contacted the Lands Commission to ascertain the validity of title to the various location. He assured the Committee that due diligence has also been conducted on the three locations to ensure that there is no litigation on them.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Staff Strength

The Committee observed that in the 2018 Budget the Ministry has a staff strength of ten (10) personnel. However the Ministry has an enormous

responsibility of facilitating a broad-based infrastructure, social and economic development of the Inner-city and Zongo communities in the country.

The Committee is of the view that the staff strength of ten (10) is woefully inadequate for the Ministry. It therefore recommends Parliament to urge Government to relook at the staff strength for the Ministry if the Ministry is to realize its goals.

6.2 Funding gap

The Committee observed that the Ministry required about GH¢351,218,983 to undertake its activities. However only GH¢101,909,970 was allocated for 2018 leaving a funding gap of GH¢249,309,013.

Given the number of activities to be performed this year, the allocation of GH¢101,909,970 is woefully inadequate. Further, the seed money of GH¢219 Million for the Zongo Development Fund has not been captured in the 2018 budget of the Ministry.

The Committee sees the mandate of the Ministry as very critical and without the needed funding, most of the programs would not be realized.

The Committee therefore recommends to the House to urge the Finance Minister to make additional allocation to the Ministry to enable it undertake its various programmes of activities including the implementation of the Zongo Development Fund law.

Fundraising

The Committee also urges the Ministry to undertake fund raising activities to raise additional revenue to fund its activities. The Zongo Development Fund makes room for the operation of a fundraising Committee.

Census


The Committee is of the view that, given the cost of undertaking a census, the allocation to the Ministry will not be enough to support the census and that the Ministry requires more resources to effectively implement its programmes.

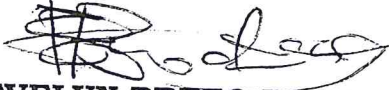
The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry should rather use the baseline information provided in the 2010 census whilst it waits for the 2020 census to be conducted. This would ensure that the Ministry has enough funding to undertake its activities

7.0 CONCLUSION

After a careful examination of the 2018 Budget Estimates for the Ministry of Inner-City and Zongo Development and having regard to the important role that the Ministry is to play in the development of the Inner city and Zongo communities, the Committee recommends to the House to approve the sum of **One Hundred and One Million, Nine Hundred and Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢101,909,970)** to enable the Ministry implement its programme of activities for 2018 financial year

Respectfully submitted.


HON. MARK ASSIBEY-YEBOAH (DR)
CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE


EVELYN BREFO-BOATENG
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
OSU - ACCRA

14th December, 2017

