

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE

ON THE

2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

DECEMBER, 2017

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

**THE REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE
2018 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF
CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for 2018 were referred to the Select Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation to Parliament of the 2018 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government by the Minister of Finance (MoF), Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee met with the Deputy Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon. Paul Essien (MP) and the Heads of Departments and Agencies, as well as officers from the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday, 6th December 2017 to consider the estimates, and reports as follows:

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the House;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2018 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2017 Financial Year;
- v. Report of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs' on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2017 financial year

3.0 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

Previously known as the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs, it was re-designated in January 2017 as the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious affairs to enable it supervise the promotion of religious activities in the country, including the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious Bodies. The Vision is to preserve, sustain and integrate the regal and traditional values and religious practices to accelerate wealth creation and harmony for total national development. The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs therefore exists to operate as the primary and apex body in policy formulation, implementation and co-ordination in the Chieftaincy and Religious Sectors. The goal of the Ministry is to harness, develop and maximize the utilization of Chieftaincy and Traditional assets and values to serve as the basis for wealth creation and socio-cultural empowerment.

3.1. CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs exist to undertake the following functions:

- i. Initiate, formulate and ensure the efficient and effective implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects for the Sector;
- ii. Preserve, conserve, develop, promote and present Ghanaian regal, traditional institutions, and values to project the unique Ghanaian Identity and National pride;
- iii. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to undertake the study, interpretation and codification of customary law with a view to evolving, in appropriate cases, a unified system of rules of customary law, and compiling the customary laws and lines of succession applicable to each stool or skin;
- iv. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and usages with a view to eliminating those customs and usages that are outmoded and socially harmful;
- v. Undertake development planning for the sector in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission; and
- vi. Organize periodic Sectorial Review Conferences for all stakeholders in the Ministry to re-examine direction and focus in line with prevailing Government policies.

4.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Ministry has a Headquarters with six (6) Directorates. These are:

- i. Finance and Administration
- ii. Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
- iii. Human Resources Management
- iv. Research
- v. Internal Audit
- vi. Chieftaincy & Religious Affairs

In addition to the above, the Ministry oversees the operations of

- i. The National House of Chiefs
- ii. Ten (10) Regional Houses of Chiefs
- iii. Two hundred and eight (208) Traditional Councils
- iv. Four Divisional Councils
- v. Oversees the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious bodies.

5.0 THE YEAR 2017 IN RETROSPECT

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs was allocated a total budget of Thirty Four Million, three hundred and twenty-eight thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight Cedis (**GH¢ 34,328,798.00**) for its activities for 2017. Expenditure was as follows:

TABLE 1: ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 2017

	BUDGET APPROVED	AMOUNT RELEASED AS AT END OF SEPTEMBER 2017	AMOUNT UTILIZED	VARIANCE
Compensation of Employees	29,328,798.00	23,041,111.57	23,041,111.57	6,287,686.43
Goods and Services	2,000,000.00	716,046.00	548,619.33	1,283,954.00
CAPEX	3,000,000.00	667,697.33	667,697.33	2,332,302.67
TOTAL	34,328,798.00	24,424,854.9	24,257,427.9	9,903,943.1

The discrepancy between the funds released for Goods and Services and the amount utilized as at the end of September 2017 is because a warrant for one hundred and sixty-seven Thousand, four hundred and twenty-seven (**GH¢167,427.00**) has been released by the Ministry of Finance but the funds are yet to be credited to the Ministry's account for disbursement.

5.1. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

A. Management and Administration

- I. The Ministry organised a two-day Training Workshop for Directors of the Ministry and the Registrars of the various Houses of Chiefs on the Labour Act, 2003 Act 651, Public Financial Management Act 2016, Act 921, Guidelines on the 2018-2021 Budget and validation of the Ministry's Medium Term Development Plan 2018-2021. The Workshop was aimed at educating the participants on the provisions of the various Act to guide and broaden their understanding to improve the performance of their duties. The workshop also gave the Registrars opportunity to make their inputs into the Sector Medium Term Development Plan (SMTDP);
- II. Thirty-three (33) Officers attended various training programs to sharpen their professional skills so they may discharge their duties more efficiently;
- III. A handbook on Chieftaincy has been published and distributed to the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs. This is to enhance knowledge acquisition and speedy resolution of Chieftaincy disputes.

B. Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs

- I. The Ministry organized four(4) training workshops on the Chieftaincy Act (Act 759) 2008 and Child Protection Policy, for Paramount Queen mothers in the Eastern, Greater Accra, Western, Volta and Central Regions to gain proper appreciation of the Chieftaincy Act and Child Protection Policy;
- II. The Ministry has resubmitted draft Legislative Instruments in respect of Lines of Succession to Stools and Skins to the Ministry of Justice and Attorneys General's Department;
- III. The Ministry has resubmitted draft Legislative Instruments in respect of Membership of Regional Houses of Chiefs to the Attorney Generals Department for advice;
- IV. The Ministry in collaboration with the Inter Ministerial Committee on illegal mining held a two day workshop on illegal mining for Chiefs in July 2017 and has since embarked on the sensitization of Traditional rulers on the scourge of illegal mining in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Central, Western, Northern and Upper East Regions;
- V. The Ministry undertook a pilot pilgrimage to the state of Israel in September 2017. The group was made up of Four officials from the Ministry (The Minister, Chief Director, Director F/A and a Ministerial Advisory board member) and seventeen other pilgrims who sponsored themselves. The Ministry has developed a draft structure for pilgrimage to be approved and a Cabinet Memorandum on it shall be submitted;

VI. The Ministry procured computers and accessories for use at the Ministry's Headquarters and the various Houses of Chiefs. This was to ensure that all important data collected is safely recorded and that the various Houses are equipped to run their offices more efficiently;

VII. The Ministry is both renovating and completing the following buildings:

- The Ministry's office building at Ridge
- The Volta Regional House of Chiefs Bungalow
- The Western Regional House of Chiefs building
- The National House of Chiefs

Payment Certificates in respect of the above have been processed and submitted for payment.

VIII. The Ministry also inspected and inaugurated the following Traditional Councils:

- Asuboa Traditional Council
- Domeabra Traditional Council
- Beposo Traditional Council
- Kwamang Traditional Council
- Mpasaaso No. 1 Traditional Council
- Manfo Traditional Council
- Ntotroso Traditional Council
- Bulenga Traditional Council
- Bawiesibelle Traditional Council
- The Ministry in collaboration with the Judicial Committees of the various House Chiefs were able to resolve and dispose about 17 cases of Chieftaincy Disputes. This include the Ashanti, Western and Eastern Regional Houses of Chiefs.

IX. The following remain to be undertaken and the ministry hopes to do so before the end of the first quarter of 2018:

- Training workshops for Queenmothers and Chiefs in the Brong Ahafo and Central Regions
- Inspection of prospective Traditional Council building in the Volta Region
- Inauguration of four (4) Traditional Councils in the Volta region
- Refurbishment of Western Regional House of Chiefs and the National House of Chiefs
- Completion of renovation works at the Ministry's new office building.
- Conduct routine audit at three Regional Houses of Chiefs – Ashanti, Volta and Greater Accra Regions.
- Scheme of Service Training for Registrars.
- Conduct Promotional Interviews.

The table indicates the main outputs, its indicators and projections by which the Ministry measures the performance of this sub-Programme. The past data indicates actual performance whilst the projections are the Ministry's estimate of future performance.

TABLE 2: OUTPUT INDICATORS AND PROJECTIONS BY THE MINISTRY

Main outputs	Output Indicator	Past Year		Projections			
		2016	2017	Budget Year 2018	Indicative year 2019	Indicative year 2020	Indicative year 2021
Skills of Staff enhanced	Number of staff trained	50	33	40	42	45	50
Staff Replaced	Number of staff replaced	30	25	33	35	37	40
Staff Promotion	Number of Staff promoted		50	60	65	60	60
Recruitment	Number of Staff recruited		9	110	120	125	125
Staff Audit	Staff Audit Completed by	-	-	31 st December	31 st December	31 st December	31 st December

6.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2018

Even though the ministry budgeted for and requested for an amount of GHC 88 million for its activities in 2018, the ceiling allocated is Thirty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Seven Thousand, Six hundred and Thirty-Two Cedis (**GHC 39,807,632.00**) to be expended as follows:

Compensation	-	GhC 34,858,622.00
Goods and Services	-	GhC 2,949,010.00
CapEx	-	GhC 2,000,000.00

6.1 THE MINISTRY'S PRIORITY PROGRAMMES FOR 2018

TABLE 3: FOCUS OF THE MINISTRY DURING THE 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS	TARGETS
Educational workshops for chiefs and queenmothers on the provisions of Chieftaincy ACT 2008 (Act 759) and ADR.	10 Regions
Sensitize the traditional authority on the Local Government Act, (Act 940) 2016.	10 Regions
Organize sensitization programmes for Traditional Authorities on the dangers of environmental pollution (illegal mining, water pollution) etc.	16 illegal mining prone areas
The Ministry will continue its implementation plan of educating and sensitizing communities against plans of harmful traditional practices i.e. childhood marriages, widowhood rights etc. Continue the projection on codification of lines of succession to stools/skins.	Reduce number of harmful practices Codify at least 5 Customary laws and complete the validation of the customary law on land and Family Project especially Asebu and Wassu Amenfi
Provide Legal Counsel and train the chiefs at the National, Regional Houses of Chiefs and Traditional Councils on legal matters, land lease procedures and land use plans. Their advocacy role in peace building and Alternative Dispute Resolution skills will be enhance to cover many community Elders.	(17)Number of Chieftaincy disputes reduced
Facilitate Annual pilgrimages to selected religious sites when the need arises.	To Strengthen individual religious faith in God.
Provide modern infrastructure and logistics for the Ministry, Regional Houses of Chiefs and Traditional Councils	To ensure gradual but systematic improvement in facilities at these entities

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following observations and recommendations during the consideration of the budget estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs:

I. Inadequate funds for Judicial Committees

The Committee was informed that due to the lack of adequate funds, the Judicial Committees of the various Houses of Chiefs were unable to meet as often as necessary. This has left many chieftaincy issues/problems still unsolved.

II. Outmoded L.I 798 and C.I 27 which specify the procedures for adjudication of disputes by Judicial Committees of Traditional Councils and various Houses of Chiefs

The Committee observed that for our laws to be in tandem with current nature and spate of chieftaincy disputes erupting all over the country, the above-mentioned laws, which spell out the processes to resolve disputes must be reviewed. The Committee therefore advised the Ministry to collaborate with the Attorney-General's Office to expedite work on the drafts aimed at amending these laws to address current challenges.

III. Process in recruiting Counsel for the Houses of Chiefs

The Committee further observed that even though the Ministry needs to engage about eleven Principal State Attorneys to assist various Houses of Chiefs, the process for procuring counsel for the Houses of Chiefs is enshrined in Articles 273 (3) and 274 (5) of the 1992 Constitution, whereby counsel is appointed by the House of Chiefs on the recommendation of the Attorney-General. Thus, any proposal regarding the engagement of counsel for any House of Chiefs must first be sent to the Attorney-General/Legal Service Board for scrutiny and recommendations. Until such recommendations are made therefore, the work of the various Judicial Councils tend to stagnate. The Committee, while acknowledging how busy the Attorney-General's department is, pleads that all applications for counsel sent from the Ministry and the various Houses of Chiefs to the Legal Service Board, should be deemed urgent and must be dealt with in a timeous manner.

IV. Composition of Members of Judicial Committees

The Committee also noted that the Judicial Councils of the Houses of Chiefs are made up of three people at the Regional Level and five people at the National level. Therefore, when one person is absent at a Regional Council meeting, work cannot proceed. This has been the bane of the life of Regional Houses of Chiefs, leading to some cases being on the shelf for years on end. The composition of these Judicial Committees is dictated by the 1992 Constitution and cannot be changed until there is a review of the Constitution itself. The Committee therefore pleads with members of the Judicial Councils of all the Regional Houses of Chiefs to carry out their mandate expeditiously and clear the glut of chieftaincy disputes on their shelves, while efforts are made to address the aforementioned challenges;

V. Lack of Provision for Internally Generated Funds

The Committee observed that the Ministry has no line for Internally Generated Funds despite its numerous activities. The Committee therefore advised the Ministry to explore permissible initiatives that would generate funds for them.

VI. Performance Management Systems

The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, and all other ministries for that matter, must have Performance Management Systems in place. This will enable them to monitor and evaluate the output of their existing staff and to also carry out the relevant training to equip them with the requisite skills and knowledge to improve productivity.

VII. Inter-Ministerial Committee

The Committee observed that some of the activities being undertaken by the Ministry are linked with the work of other Ministries. For example, the drive to educate people against the practice of widowhood rites and the need to eradicate witch camps are akin to the work of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection. The Committee therefore recommends more collaboration between inter-ministerial committees that would coordinate such programs to avoid duplication and waste of already meagre funds.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee acknowledges that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has a vital role to play in engendering cohesion and maintaining peace in the country, which are prerequisites for national growth and development. The committee therefore pleads with the Ministry of Finance to, in a timely manner, make allocated funds available for the operations and activities of this Ministry.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that the House approve the total sum of **Thirty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Seven Thousand, Six hundred and Thirty-Two Cedis (GHC 39,807,632.00)** for the implementation of the policies and activities of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the 2018 Financial Year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



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**HON. ALEX KOFI AGYEKUM
CHAIRMAN**



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**SHEBA NANA AFRIYIE OSEI
CLERK**