



**Republic of Ghana**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION**

**(ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT)  
2018**

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## Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.01 Purpose of M&E for 2018.....	3
1.02 Process involved in conducting M&E.....	4
1.03 Status of implementation of SMTDP.....	4
1.04 Difficulties or challenges encountered.....	6
2.0. M & E ACTIVITIES REPORT .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.01 Programme Register For 2018.....	9
2.02. Update of Funding Sources and Disbursement.....	13
2.03. Update on Indicators and Targets.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Information is mandated to disseminate information on major Government programmes, policies and plans and also to receive feedback from the public for policy refinement. This mandate is in line with the vision, policies and programmes outlined in the President's Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) named "Agenda for jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunities for all, 2017-2024

To fulfil this mandate, the Ministry implemented a number of programmes and activities to engage the public in order to enhance information dissemination, awareness creation and sensitization as well as promote social inclusion in our national development. Key amongst the activities included the following:

- a) Disseminated public information on the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2018 Financial Year presented to Parliament on Thursday, **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 on the theme: Putting Ghana Back to Work**
- b) Organised Town Hall Meetings in 152 districts across the country
- c) Organised the meet the press series for MDAs
- d) Organised National Policy Summits
- e) Through Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), the Ministry produced and broadcasted TV and Radio programmes on all public activities.
- f) The Hon. Minister and his Deputies appeared on TV and Radio programs to discuss and also to throw more light on government policies and programs.
- g) The political leadership comprising the Hon. Minister and his Deputies interacted directly with the public through the electronic and print media.
- h) Strengthened institutional capacity for effective policy formulation and implementation to improve access to information.
- i) Capacity Building programs for staff, (scheme of Service training, and other capacity building programmes were undertaken).
- j) The Ministry actively pushed for the passage of the Right to Information Bill. The Bill has been re submitted to Parliament for consideration.
- k) In line with our objective to work with all MDAs and MMDAs as well as all public institutions, the Ministry participated in programmes and activities by other institutions. This was done with the view to highlight all national and local programmes and policies being implemented by such institutions.

In spite of the significant achievements, there were, however, some challenges that confronted the Ministry and its agencies during the period under review.

These challenges included the following:

- a) Inadequate budgetary allocation to the Ministry and its agencies made it difficult for the effective implementation of policies and programs.
- ii) Untimely release of funds by MoF hindered the implementation of planned programs according to schedule.
- iii) Unattractive conditions of service and the non-review of conditions of service made it difficult to motivate and stimulate officers to deliver their optimum.
- iv) Inadequate office and residential accommodation for most of the staff hindered the efficient and effective performance of work at the Ministry and its departments.

In order to mitigate the effects of these challenges in the months ahead, some measures have been proposed under the challenges/mitigation strategies.

This report covers the implementation of programmes and activities contained in the Sector's Medium Term Development Plan, 2018 - 2021

### **1.01 Purpose of M&E for 2018**

An M&E framework has been developed to guide the progress of implementation of the Medium-Term Plan. The framework takes into consideration baseline data in 2017 and a performance assessment framework which is a tool comprising indicators that can be used to gauge the achievement of milestones.

Generally, the purpose of the M&E framework is to provide policy makers, middle level managers and indeed the entire Ministry the necessary information to manage performance and achieve optimal results.

For the stated period, the M&E framework was put in place mainly to provide the Ministry with information on how the sector is performing on its targets as well as to serve as a guide for the Agencies and department under the Ministry to develop and institutionalize.

## 1.02 Processes involved in conducting M&E

The entire M& E preparation and implementation was carried out with participation of our sector agencies and departments. Indeed, the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan (2018-2021) was done with input at various occasions from the agencies and departments.

Other key stakeholders have also been involved in the preparation and implementation of the above documents. This was done with the view to assessing our readiness to implement the framework.

The process of conducting the M&E involved the following key steps;

- Adopted goals to be achieved
- Selected outcome indicators to monitor
- Gathered baseline information
- Setting specific targets to attain and dates for attaining them
- Collected data to assess whether the target were met
- Analyzed and reported the results.

## 1.03 Status of implementation of SMTDP

A number of programmes and activities were outlined in the Annual Action Plan for 2018 to be implemented. From the table below, it can be deduced that about 65% of all the programmes and activities were undertaken and completed. 28% of such programmes and interventions are ongoing whilst 7% of these interventions are yet to start.

Overall, out of a target of completing 25% of the SMTDP, about 18% has been completed.

	Baseline	Target	Actual
	2017	2018	2018
<b>1.</b> Proportion of the annual action plans implemented:			
a. Percentage completed		100%	65%
b. Percentage of ongoing interventions			28%
c. Percentage of interventions abandoned		Nil	Nil
d. Percentage of interventions yet to start			7%

<b>2.</b>	Proportion of the overall medium-term development plan implemented	25%	18%

### Detailed information on the Annual Action Planned Implementation

	Development Dimension	2018	
		Planned	Executed
<b>1.</b>	<b>Governance, Corruption And Public Accountability</b>		
	Town Hall Meetings	152	152
	National Policy Summits	4	3
	Meet the Press Series Organised	25	15
	Weekly Press Briefings	45	19
	Local Stories Processed by GNA	12,320	14408
	Regional Tours Undertaken	10	10
	Public Media Launches & public Education on Government Flagship Projects & Policy Initiatives Organised	10	10
	End of Year Regional Press Soirees Organised	10	10
	National Events Covered by GBC	220	407
	Coverage of National Events by ISD	20	15
	Media Monitoring Units Established and Operationalised	10 TV stations 23 Radio stations	10 TV stations 23 Radio stations
	World Press Freedom day Celebration	To host	Hosted
<b>2.</b>	<b>Social Development</b>		
	Public Education Campaign	3	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Ghana's role in international Affairs</b>		
	Foreign Stories Processed by GNA	12240	4346

## 1.04 Difficulties or challenges encountered

This section enumerates the challenges the Ministry and its Departments/Agencies encountered during the year 2018. It also identifies strategies to be adopted to address these challenges moving forward as a result of lessons learned. Below are the challenges encountered and the mitigating measures to be adopted moving forward;

- **Inadequate/unreliable data for decision making;** this is a huge challenge considering the fact that the Ministry was scrapped for over four (4) years as a result of which its programmes and activities were put under the Ministry of Communications. This challenge is being addressed by strengthening the institutional memory of the Ministry and the organization of training for records staff.
- **Lack of collaboration and coordination among cost centres;** there was no central point of coordinating the activities of the various cost centres. However, the Ministry has institutionalized monthly meetings amongst cost centres for the harmonization of common programmes and also for the discussion of issues of common interest.
- **Lack of adequate resources;** resources ranging from personnel to equipment and vehicles were seriously lacking in the Ministry and thereby hampering the execution of planned programmes. Provisions have, however, been made to procure office equipment and other logistics in the medium term
- **Bad state of equipment of ISD;** the most critical challenge of ISD relates to the state of its equipment. Most of the equipment are either obsolete or have broken down. For instance, just about two (2) to five (5) offices at the Department's Head Office have computers and accessories. Officers in other offices have none hence have to rely on the offices that have the equipment for its work which leads to delay in submission of work. Some officers also have to use their personal equipment to discharge their official duties. The current printing machine being used is a 1940 kord model which is in a deplorable state. The Department has only 71 cinema vans (which were purchased in 2007) across the 182 operating districts and these vans were not serviced regularly due to poor finances. Additionally, display panels for exhibitions and outreach programs are also in a deplorable state. Maintenance, repairs and replacement of these equipment has become a daunting challenge due to lack of funds. Budgetary releases from the Ministry of Finance are usually delayed and extremely inadequate to address these problems. Again, all funds raised from the use of these equipment which can be used to repair and maintain this equipment are sent back to the Government through the consolidated fund.

To mitigate these challenges, the ISD submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Finance to retain the Internally Generated Fund (IGF) to resource the income generating sections of the Department which will in turn increase the amount

generated. Also, collaboration with MDAs and MMDAs ought to be increased to inform and educate Ghanaians on Government programmes/projects. The Department will then provide the technical expertise to develop and implement the communication strategy whilst the collaborating MDAs and MMDAs would provide the funding. Again proposals are being developed to forge collaboration with potential investors to partner with the Department to strengthen the Department's service delivery capacity. Furthermore, the Ministry of Information is exploring various avenues to replace the Department's obsolete cinema vans across the country. Ideally, every district (182) should have a van.

- **Dwindling Human Resource;** another very disturbing challenge the Department faced in the year is its dwindling human resource base. Most of the officers who are retiring from the service are not being replaced due to lack of clearance from the Ministry of Finance. Also most of the officers are converting from the information to other classes while others are resigning due to poor working conditions and lack of motivation. All these contributed to the reduction of the human resource base of the Department.
- **Insufficient Monitoring;** the Department is also seriously handicapped when it comes to monitoring public education and sensitization campaigns across the country. This is because there are no vehicles at the headquarters that can be used for such purposes.
- **Lack of means of Transport;** transporting journalists on assignment was difficult due to the non-availability of vehicles which always affected the time in delivering news item.
- **Ban on Recruitment;** in the case of GNA, it was also difficult to recruit due to the ban on recruitment, posing a huge challenge as to how to get new members of staff to replace old members of staffs as they retired.
- Lack of funds also posed a challenge to the GNA when it came to the maintenance of equipment and vehicles. Vehicle and equipment were either broken down or not replaced at all.
- **Lack of Training Programmes;** training programmes designed to equip workers of the Agency with different skills set that will improve the quality of the news produced could not be undertaken due to the non-release of funds and it has proven to be detrimental to the quality of work at the Agent.

**Non-Payment of Fees;** the work of stringers is the core of the news gathering and producing business. Thus the non-payment of their fees was of negative influence to the Agency.

- **Understaffing at GBC;** this issue has become a major one as some critical operational areas are left without the requisite personnel to man them and thereby affecting the whole operation of the corporation. However, the corporation is seeking clearance from Government to recruit.
- **High Utility Bills of GBC;** this has led to the shut-down of operations in some of parts of the country. The organisation is putting mechanism in place to avoid wastage in the use of utilities.
- **Request by Government to cover programmes not budgeted for;** this issue also affected greatly the operations of GBC as it affects the calendar of the corporation. GBC is putting in effort to operate according to planned schedul

## 2.01 Programme Register For 2018

The programmes and activities that were undertaken in the year 2018 was of great significance and benefitted the entire nation. In an effort to disseminate Government policies, plans and programmes at the local government level, Town Hall Meetings were organized in 152 districts across the country.

Three (3) National Policy Summits were organised purposely to bring together policy makers and stakeholders to examine key policies and programmes of government. This deepens the process of accountability as well as to ensure that there is a collective ownership of government policies, programmes and projects.

The table below depicts this in detail;

Programme description	Development dimension	Amount Involved Sum GH	Source Of Funding	Date Started	Expected Date Of Completion	Outstanding Balance	Implementation Status %	Total Beneficiaries	Remarks
	<b>Governance ,Corruption And Public Accountability</b>								
Town Hall Meeting	Governance ,corruption and public accountability	4,000,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	Nil	100%	National	Town Hall Meetings held in 152 districts

National Policy Summits	governance, corruption and public accountability	2,000,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	Nil	3 out of 4	National	3 National policy summits held
Meet the Press series Organised	Governance, corruption and public accountability	50,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	Nil	52%	National	Target not met
Local Stories Process by GNA	Governance, corruption and public accountability	70,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	Nil	116%	National	More local stories were processed
Regional Tours Undertaken	Governance, corruption and public accountability	350,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	Nil	100%	National	Tours undertaken to 10 regions
Work with CSOs and NGOs to produce and disseminate reports	Governance, corruption and public accountability	N/A	GoG	January 2018		N/A	—	National	Yet to start
National Events covered by GBC	Governance, corruption and public accountability		GoG	January 2018	Ongoing		100%	National	

Media Monitoring Units Established and Operationalized	Governance, corruption and public accountability	70,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	Nil	100%	National	Operationalised
Press Freedom day celebration	Governance, corruption and public accountability	5.3m	GoG	January 2018		Nil	100%	National	International Press Freedom Day hosted by Ghana
Coverage of National Events by ISD	Governance, corruption and public accountability	80,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	500,000.00	85%	National	
Coverage of public accounts committee sitting	Governance, corruption and public accountability	800,000.00	GoG	January 2018	Ongoing			National	
	<b>Social Development</b>								
Public Education Campaign	Social development	80,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	20,000.00	60%	National	

	<b>Ghana's Role In International Affairs</b>								
Foreign Stories Processed by GNA	Ghana's role in international affairs	60,000.00	GoG	January 2018	December 2018	10,000.00	36%	National	Lack of funds affected this programme

## 2.02. Update of Funding Sources and Disbursement

### Revenue Analysis

A total of **107,346,067.00** was targeted to be mobilised for the implementation of the sector's programmes and activities for 2018. However, only an amount of **106,530,302.47** was realised leaving a balance of **815,764.53** during the year under review as shown in the table below;

REVENUE SOURCES	Baseline 2017	Target 2018	Actual 2018
Central Government Transfers		87,220,489.00	93,572,699.8
IGF	--	20,125,578.00	12,957,602.68
DP Support	--	--	--
Others	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>107,346,067.00</b>	<b>106,530,302.47</b>

### Expenditure Analysis

A target of **107,346,067.00** was expected to be used to run the programmes and activities of the Ministry for the year. However the total expenditure was **106,530,302.47** leaving a balance of **815,764.53** during the year under review as shown in the table below;

EXPENDITURE ITEM	Baseline 2017	Target 2018	Actual 2018
Compensation	--	75,921,609.00	75,921,609.00
Goods And Services	--	29,256,088.00	29,256,087.40
CAPEX	--	2,168,370.00	1,352,606.07
Others	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>107,346,067.00</b>	<b>106,530,302.47</b>

Per the table above, Ghana hosted the World Press Freedom Day for the first time in

history and was ranked 26<sup>th</sup> in the world according to the Press Freedom Index. Many of the targets for the Ministry in 2018 were also achieved.

	<b>Indicator (Categorised by Development Dimension of Agenda for Jobs)</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	<b>Key National Indicators</b>			
		<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
1	Level of press freedom (Press Freedom Index – PFI)	Ghana was ranked 26 in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index	Hosting the 2018 WPF	2018 WPF hosted and Ghana ranked 23 in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index
2	Number of National Policy Summits	2	4	3
	Meet the press sessions	25	25	13
	Budget dissemination programmes	1	1	1
	Town Hall meetings	100	152	152
	Regional Press Soirées	10	10	10
3	Number of regular interactions organized between the President and citizens	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Number of presidential meet-the press sessions organized	2	2	2
5	Right to Information Bill (RTI) passed and implemented	Draft Right to Information Bill Available	Right to Information Bill passed	The Bill is currently before Parliament

### **FORWARD LOOK FOR 2019**

In 2019, the Ministry of Information and its Department and Agencies will intensify the execution of programmes and projects that will enhance information dissemination, public participation at all levels and ultimately result in a better quality of life for Ghanaians.

The following key programmes and activities, among others, will be vigorously pursued:

1. Organize and sustain the National Policy Summits on key subject areas.
2. Enhance the organisation of the Town Hall meetings
3. Adequately cover state events including Parliamentary public hearing.
4. Continue, sustain and enhance the organization of the weekly Meet-the-Press series for MDAs.
5. Embark on regional tours, media interactions and press assignments
6. Implementation of GNA's digital audio, text, video and photo, as well as the re-engineering programme and the computerization of its Regional and District offices.
7. Upgrade the competency of all categories of staff to improve the overall service delivery.
8. In the face of many challenges, GBC has developed a 5-year strategic plan and an implementation committee had been constituted to help achieve its mission, i.e., "To lead the broadcasting and communications industry through quality programming which promotes the developmental and cultural aspirations of Ghana"
9. ISD also seeks to significantly enhance the capacity of its outreach programs by purchasing one hundred (100) ultra-modern cinema vans to effectively reach both the new and old districts with pertinent Government information and also provide timely feedback for Government.
10. The Department is also being revamped through the use of technology
11. Due to the high attrition rate over the years, the ISD seeks to employ staff with the requisite qualifications and also replace staff who have left the service. Corollary to this, the ISD has budgeted for the recruitment of One Hundred and Ninety one (191) new staff for the year 2018.
12. The Department also seeks to embark on other capacity building projects such as acquiring Ultra-Modern Public Address Systems and outdoor display screens to enhance its capacity to support national events.

To expand the frontiers of information dissemination, the Ministry in 2019 has also developed other innovative programmes with the strategy to ensure that major Government policies, plans and programmes are widely disseminated to ensure the

public is fully sensitised and social inclusion is achieved. The programmes include the following :

- 1) Minister's Press Briefings
- 2) Ghana @ Work Campaigns
- 3) DCE's Monthly Communication Project
- 4) #AskInfoMinistry
- 5) Social Media
- 6) Press Tours
- 7) Brand Ghana
- 8) Government Communications
- 9) Public Education Campaigns

With the appropriate level of funding and timely releases of funds, the Ministry should be able to deliver its key programmes and activities for the year.