

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

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

*ON THE*

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

**ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR THE  
2019 FINANCIAL YEAR**



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON THE ANNUAL  
BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Hon Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2019 Financial Year to Parliament on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. This was in fulfilment of Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Order 140(4) and 186 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Education to the Committee on Education for consideration and report.

1.2 Accordingly, the Committee met on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 and considered the referral. Present at the Committee's sittings were the two Deputy Ministers for Education, Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum and Hon. Barbara Asher Ayisi, Heads of Agencies of the Ministry of Education, and officials of the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Deputy Ministers, Heads of Agencies of the Ministry of Education, and officials of the Ministry of Finance for attending upon the Committee.

**2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee referred to the following documents during the consideration of the Estimates:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2018 Financial Year.
- iv. The Report of the Committee on Education on the 2018 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Education.
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year.

### 3.0 **MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

The Ministry of Education exists to establish an educational system intended to produce well balanced individuals with the requisite knowledge, skills, values, aptitudes and attitudes to become functional and productive citizens for the total development and democratic advancement of the country.

### 4.0 **CORE FUNCTIONS**

The core functions of the Ministry of Education are as follows:

- Plan, develop and implement educational policies and programmes.
- Advise Government on Education Policies and issues.
- Maintain an efficient Education Management Information System to meet local and international standards.
- Develop and support programmes, services and activities geared towards adult literacy, skills development, personal and national development.
- Provide guidance in the management of educational institutions and affiliated agencies.
- Provide quality assurance and supervision of pre-tertiary and tertiary institutions.
- Manage the provision of library services to the citizenry towards the development of a literate society.
- Manage mandatory National Service Scheme.
- Development of curriculum and assessment.
- Manage the conduct of examination and certification.

### 5.0 **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The policy objectives of the Ministry of Education in line with the National Medium-Term Development Framework are as follows:

- a. Increase inclusive and equitable access to and participation in education at all levels.
- b. Strengthen School Management Systems.
- c. Ensure sustainable sources of financing for education.

## 6.0 PERFORMANCE IN 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR

### 6.1 Financial Performance

The Ministry of Education was allocated an amount of **nine billion, two hundred and fifty-eight million, eight hundred and thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-seven cedis (GH¢9,258,839,827.00)** for the implementation of its programmes and activities in year 2018. The breakdown of the allocation by source of funding and expenditure item is provided in Table 1.

Table 1

#### Breakdown of 2018 Budgetary Allocation by Source of Funding and Expenditure Item

Item	GoG GH¢	ABFA GH¢	IGF GH¢	DONOR GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Compensation	7,199,744,624	-	94,730,897	-	7,294,475,521
Goods and Services	92,852,960	-	1,200,506,608	65,209,677	1,358,569,245
Capital Expenditure	2,822,910	10,000,000	332,133,442	260,838,709	605,795,061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,295,420,494</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>1,627,370,947</b>	<b>326,048,386</b>	<b>9,258,839,827</b>

*Source: The Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Education for the 2018 Financial Year*

6.2 As at October 2018, the Ministry of Education had expended an amount of **GH¢7,864,216,469.00** out of the total budgetary allocation of **GH¢9,258,839,827.00**. The details are shown in Tables 2.

Table 2

#### Expenditure as at October 2018 by Source of Funding

SOURCE OF FUNDING	APPROPRIATED AMOUNT GH¢	EXPENDITURE GH¢	VARIANCE GH¢	EXP. AS % OF BUDGET
Government of Ghana (GoG)	7,295,420,494	6,306,365,394	989,055,100	86.4%
ABFA	10,000,000	3,435,020	6,564,980	34.4%
Donor	326,048,386	101,289,917	224,758,469	31.1%
IGF	1,627,370,947	1,453,126,138	174,244,809	89.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,258,839,827</b>	<b>7,864,216,469</b>	<b>1,394,623,358</b>	<b>84.9%</b>

*Source: The Ministry's Presentation on its 2018 Budgetary Performance*

Table 2 shows that as at October 2018, 84.9% of the Ministry's allocation for the year under review had been utilised. Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that the low level of utilisation of the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) component of the allocation (34.4%) affected the execution of some infrastructural projects earmarked for the year. The 31.1% expenditure in respect of Donor also affected the execution of some critical activities of the Ministry.

6.3 The breakdown of expenditure as per GoG allocation of GH¢7,295,420,494 is shown in Table 3.

Table 3  
**GoG Budget Performance as at October 2018**

EXPENDITURE ITEM	APPROVED ALLOCATION GH¢	EXPENDITURE GH¢	VARIANCE GH¢	EXP. AS % BUDGET
Compensation	7,199,744,624	6,204,426,532	995,318,092	86.2%
Goods and Services	92,852,960	55,515,114	37,337,846	59.8%
Capital Expenditure	2,822,910	46,423,747	-43,600,837	1644.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,295,420,494</b>	<b>6,306,365,393</b>	<b>989,055,101</b>	<b>86.4%</b>

*Source: The Ministry's Presentation on its 2018 Budgetary Performance*

6.3.1 As evidenced in Table 3, the Ministry of Education, as at October 2018, had utilised an amount of GH¢6,306,365,393 representing 86.4% of its total allocation. Expenditure on Compensation represents 86.2% while Goods and Services, and Capital Expenditure represents 59.8% and 1644.5% respectively.

6.3.2 The Ministry explained that the high variance between the approved budget of GH¢2,822,910 for Capital Expenditure and the amount of GH¢46,423,747 expended as at October 2018, was because the Ministry of Education through the Ministry of Finance, paid an amount of GH¢44,400,000.00 (being the cedi equivalent of US\$10,000,000.0 exchanged at a rate of GH¢4.44 to US\$1) to Messrs Svani Group Limited. This was part payment of an outstanding debt of US\$18,720,000.00 owed Messrs Svani Group Limited for the supply of 500 vehicles (100 units of 66-Seater buses, 200 units of 33-Seater buses, 100 units of Nissan Navara Double Cabin Pick-Ups and 100 units Mahindra Double Cabin Pick-Ups) to educational institutions across the country in 2016.

## 7.0 Key Achievements in 2018

During the year under review, the Ministry of Education carried out the following activities, among others:

### i. Management and Administration Programme

- A handbook for school inspection which contains indicators for the teaching and learning of Mathematics and English was reviewed by the Ministry.
- Funding was secured by the Ministry to implement the Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project (GALOP) which is aimed at strengthening system accountability.
- To ensure that every Ghanaian child is equipped with foundational Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic and cReativity (4Rs) skills upon completing Primary 6, the Ministry completed a review of the curriculum for kindergarten and Primary 1 – 6.
- The National Teaching Council conducted the first licensure examination for approximately, 30,000 teachers across the country.
- To promote the teaching and speaking of French in the country, the Ministry converted five public basic schools into bilingual schools. Fifty-four (54) public Senior High Schools were equipped with French Language Resource Centres while six (6) Colleges of Education were also provided with language laboratories and resource centres for the training of French language teachers.
- Government recruited 19,650 teaching and non-teaching staff and deployed them to schools across the country. This was to address human resource shortfalls at the pre-tertiary level of education.
- Government recruited and deployed approximately, 8,872 teachers to various Senior High Schools (SHS) for the double track system.

### ii. Basic Education Programme

- The Ministry commenced a programme to provide Kindergarten (KG) education in 1,171 primary schools in 2018, and accordingly completed 90 KGs.

- The Ministry rehabilitated fifty-two (52) collapsing schools that were unsafe for students and teachers.
- Government absorbed 100% of the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) registration fees of 356,344 candidates from public Junior High Schools.
- The Ministry piloted the direct payment of Capitation Grant to public Basic Schools.
- Developed and distributed teacher guides, pupil books, alphabet cards and picture books to basic schools in 100 Districts.

### iii. Secondary Education Programme

- The Ministry continued with the implementation of the Free SHS Policy. Enrolment in 2018 was 490,882 representing an increase of 36% percent over the enrolment of 361,771 in 2017.
- To accommodate more students and also ease congestion in schools, the Ministry introduced the double track system in 400 schools as a temporary measure. As at 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, a total of 484,743 students had been placed in schools on both the green and gold tracks.
- 200 Mathematics and Science teachers from 100 schools were trained in robotics and engineering science as part of the Basic Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (BSTEM) programme.
- The Ministry supplied and installed 8,738 white boards and accessories in schools to replace the chalkboards.
- The Ministry installed iBox education portals and solar panels in 125 public SHSs.
- Government supplied 68,851 sets of furniture; 472,730 Physical Education Kits; 39,496 technical drawing instruments; 6,145,490; exercise books; 218,804 each of Integrated Science, Social Studies, Mathematics and English language books and 352,040 supplementary readers.
- A Pre-Tertiary Education Bill that provides for the creation of Technical Vocational Education and Training Service (TVETS) was developed by the Ministry.



vi. Tertiary Education Programme

- ❖ For the 2018/19 academic year, a total of 50,004 trainees from public Colleges of Education were paid allowances.
- ❖ In collaboration with Partners, the Ministry completed the development of a 4-year Bachelor of Education curriculum for implementation in Colleges of Education.
- ❖ The Ministry developed and secured Cabinet approval for an Education Regulators Bill that seeks to establish a Tertiary Education Commission by merging the National Council for Tertiary Education and the National Accreditation Board.
- ❖ The Ministry commenced work on the Somanya campus of the University of Environment and Sustainable Development.

## 8.0 **OUTLOOK FOR 2019**

In 2019, the Ministry of Education will undertake the following programmes/activities among others:

i. Management and Administration Programme

- Provide continuous professional training to all licensed teachers to ensure an upgrade of their skills.
- Teachers will be required to undergo training in School Leadership and Management to be eligible for appointment as Head of a public basic or secondary school.
- Continue with infrastructural development at all levels of education.
- Continue with the procurement of Teaching and Learning Materials for public basic schools and SHSs.
- Continue with pre-tertiary curriculum reforms leading to the establishment of pupil standards and common national assessment.

ii. Basic Education Programme

- Complete additional 150 KGs to provide kindergarten education in primary schools.

- Continue to rehabilitate and re-build 50 collapsing schools.
- Pay for the BECE registration fees for an estimated 382,675 candidates from public JHSs.
- Continue with the implementation of BSTEM programme to improve the teaching and learning of Mathematics and Science at the basic level.

iii. Secondary Education Programme

- ❖ Complete stalled building projects in the SHSs to expand capacity.
- ❖ Install iBox education portals in 106 additional schools and continue with the programme to replace chalkboards with whiteboards.
- ❖ Commence the construction of 20 state-of-the-art TVET Centres as well as upgrade and retool 34 Vocational Training Institutes.
- ❖ Construct 10 STEM Centres.
- ❖ Provide multimedia laboratories as well as internet connectivity to cover many more schools.

iv. Tertiary Education Programme

- Commence work on the Bunso Campus of the University of Environment and Sustainable Development to include the construction of an Administration Block, Schools of Agriculture and Engineering, among others.
- Pay allowances to estimated 54,108 teacher trainees.
- Commence processes to upgrade the Kumasi Campus of the University of Education, Winneba, into an independent TVET Teacher Training University.
- A Regulatory Bill which will merge the Ghana Institute of Languages, National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) and the Ghana Institute of Journalism into a National Institute of Communication and Media Arts will be put together with stakeholders consultations.

9.0 **BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2019**

9.1 As contained in the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2019 Financial Year, the Ministry of Education has been allocated an amount of **twelve billion, eight hundred and seventy-eight million and forty-three thousand, one hundred and forty-five cedis (GH¢12,878,043,145.00)** for its programmes and activities in year 2019, of which an amount of **one billion, six hundred and eighty-two million, six hundred and forty-one thousand, nine hundred and twenty-four cedis (GH¢1,682,641,924.00)** is for the implementation of the Free SHS Policy.

It is informative to note that funds for the implementation of the Free SHS Policy has since 2018, been placed under the Office of Government Machinery. Accordingly, the budgetary allocation of GH¢1,682,641,924.00 for the implementation of the Free SHS Policy is pencilled out of the total Budgetary allocation of GH¢12,878,043,145.00 by the Ministry of Finance, and appropriately captured under the Office of Government Machinery. This development brings the Ministry’s total budgetary allocation for year 2019 to **eleven billion, one hundred and ninety-five million, four hundred and one thousand, two hundred and twenty-one cedis (GH¢11,195,401,221.00)**.

9.2 The breakdown of the total budgetary allocation of **GH¢11,195,401,221.00** to the Ministry of Education for the 2019 Financial Year is shown in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4

**Breakdown of 2019 Budgetary Allocation by Source of Funding and Expenditure Item**

Item	GoG GH¢	IGF GH¢	DONOR GH¢	TOTAL GH¢	% Share
Compensation	9,120,000,000.00	86,869,138.00	-	9,206,869,138.00	82.24%
Goods and Services	211,245,273.00	1,156,109,701.00	100,248,989.00	1,467,603,963.00	13.11%
Capital Expenditure	9,500,000.00	312,225,723.00	199,202,397.00	520,928,120.00	4.65%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,340,745,273.00</b>	<b>1,555,204,562.00</b>	<b>299,451,386.00</b>	<b>11,195,401,221.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
% Share	83.43%	13.89%	2.67%		

**SOURCE: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2019 Financial Year**

Table 5  
Breakdown of 2019 Budgetary Allocation by Programme

PROGRAMME	COMPENSATION GH¢	GOODS AND SERVICES GH¢	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Management and Administration	1,808,369,395.00	561,476,013.23	209,304,857.00	2,579,150,265.23
Basic Education	4,395,816,522.00	-	-	4,395,816,522.00
Second Cycle Education	1,157,828,771.00	-	-	1,157,828,771.00
Non-Formal Education	46,989,050.00	500,000.00	-	47,489,050.00
Inclusive and Special Education	8,701,975.00	624,000.00	-	9,325,975.00
Tertiary Education	1,789,163,425.00	905,003,949.77	311,623,263.00	3,005,790,637.77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,206,869,138.00</b>	<b>1,467,603,963.00</b>	<b>520,928,124.00</b>	<b>11,195,401,221.00</b>

*SOURCE: The Ministry's Presentation on the 2019 Budget Estimates*

## 10.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 10.1 2019 Budgetary Allocation

The Committee observed an increase of 20.92% in the Ministry's total budgetary allocation for 2019 over the allocation of nine billion, two hundred and fifty-eight million, eight hundred and thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-seven cedis (GH¢9,258,839,827.00) for year 2018.

The Committee further observed that the increase in the total allocation for 2019 was due to an increase in GoG component of the budget. While the 2018 GoG allocation to the Ministry was GH¢7,295,420,494, in 2019 the Ministry has been allocated an amount of GH¢9,340,745,273.00 representing a 28.04% increase.

It is worth noting that donor allocation reduced from GH¢326,048,386 in 2018 to GH¢299,451,386 in 2019 while IGF component also reduced from GH¢1,627,370,946 in year 2018 to GH¢1,555,204,562 in year 2019. The Ministry however, was not allocated funds under the ABFA component of the budget. The 2018 and 2019 budgetary allocation by sources of funding is shown in Table 6.

Table 6

**Budgetary Allocation by Source of Funding  
(2018 and 2019)**

Expenditure Item	2018 APPROVED BUDGET GH¢	2019 Budgetary Allocation GH¢	% Change
GoG	7,295,420,494.00	9,340,745,273.00	28.04%
ABFA	10,000,000.00	-	-100%
Donor	326,048,386.00	299,451,386.00	-8.16%
IGF	1,627,370,946.00	1,555,204,562.00	-4.43%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,258,839,827.00</b>	<b>11,195,401,221.00</b>	<b>20.92%</b>

*Source: The Ministry's Presentation on the 2019 Annual Budget Estimates*

### 10.2 Delay in Releases of GoG Budgetary Allocation

The Committee noted with grave concern, the delay in the releases of GoG budgetary allocation, particularly for Goods and Services, to most of the Agencies of the Ministry of Education. Agencies such as the GES, NCTE and the National Service Scheme expressed worry over such delays. Exacerbating the situation is the difficulty in accessing releases for Goods and Services through the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) platform due to poor internet connectivity. This situation, which has become a regular occurrence, negatively affects the implementation of most of the planned programmes and activities.

Delay in the releases of GoG budgetary allocation to the Ministry and its Agencies have the tendency of adversely affecting the provision of quality education in the country. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure timely releases of the 2019 GoG budgetary allocation particularly, for Goods and Services to enable the Ministry and its Agencies effectively implement their planned programmes for 2019.

### 10.3 GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE (GES)

#### i. 2018 GoG Allocation

The Committee noted that GES was provided an amount of GH¢5,563,808,600.00 from GoG in 2018 for the implementation of its

programmes and activities. As at October 2018, a total amount of GH¢5,852,399,587.30 had been expended indicating an overrun of its approved budget by an amount of GH¢288,590,987.30. The details are shown in Table 7.

Table 7

**2018 GoG Budget Performance**

Expenditure Item	Approved Budget GH¢	Expenditure GH¢	Variance
Compensation	5,293,481,391.00	5,716,712,527.00	-423,231,136.00
Goods and Services (Admin., Grants)	54,600,129.00	19,913,592.00	34,686,537.00
Goods and Services (Interventions/Priorities)	215,727,080.00	115,773,468.00	99,953,612.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,563,808,600.00</b>	<b>5,852,399,587.00</b>	<b>-288,590,987.00</b>

*Source: Presentation on 2018 Budget Performance by GES*

As shown in Table 7, the overrun was accounted for by Compensation, which was overspent by GH¢423,231,136.00, an 8% increase above the approved amount.

Explaining the excess expenditure, GES indicated that in year 2018, the Service requested for an amount of GH¢5,800,000,000.00 as compensation for its employees but was allocated GH¢5,293,481,391.00 leaving a funding gap of GH¢506,518,609.00. Again, approval for an 11% salary increase for GES which took effect in January 2018, amounted to GH¢628,613,143.05. Thus, the budget shortfall, together with the 11% salary increment, brought the total shortfall in compensation to GH¢1,135,131,752.05.

In the course of the year, the Ministry of Education applied to the Ministry of Finance for additional funds to cater for the compensation needs of GES. Hence, the excess expenditure.

ii. Budgetary Allocation for 2019

GES has been allocated an amount of GH¢7,276,243,264.23 for its programmes and activities in 2019. The breakdown of the allocation by expenditure item is as follows:

a. Compensation	GH¢6,721,088,590.00 (92.4%)
b. Goods and Services	GH¢461,320,698.23 (6.3%)
c. Capital Expenditure	GH¢93,833,976.00 (1.3%)

From the breakdown, Compensation alone will take 92.4% of the total budget, leaving only 7.6% of the allocation for Goods and Services, and Capital Expenditure.

The Committee noted that GES requested for an amount of GH¢7,973,111,768.70 for Compensation to cater for 337,114 staff but has been allocated an amount of GH¢6,721,088,590.00, leaving a funding gap of GH¢1,252,023,178.70. According to GES, the 2019 budgetary requirement for Compensation includes a sum of GH¢34,557,508.00 meant for the payment of arrears of transfer grants, other allowances and outstanding payments for years 2017 and 2018.

The Committee is of the view that the shortfall in the allocation for compensation will affect the ability of GES to settle the arrears of transfer grants and other commitments.

The Committee therefore strongly urges the Ministry of Finance to provide GES with the needed funds during the Mid-year Budget Review to enable it meet fully, its obligations on compensation for 2019.

iii. Inadequate Non-teaching Staff

The Committee noted that for several years, GES has been confronted with the challenge of inadequate non-teaching staff, particularly caterers and security personnel in Senior High Schools. This situation has become even more critical with the implementation of the Free SHS Policy, which has resulted in increased enrolment of students at the secondary level.

There is no doubt that inadequate staffing impacts on the performance of set programmes and activities. The Committee therefore recommends that in order to reduce the workload of the few caterers and security personnel available for effective service delivery, the Ministry of Finance should, as a matter of urgency, provide GES with the needed resources to recruit the needed non-teaching staff to augment its staff strength.

iv. Management of Education Delivery

It came to the attention of the Committee that as part of measures to improve the management of education delivery, teachers who aspire to become Heads of Institutions would have to undergo training in Education Leadership and Management to be eligible for appointment. This would take effect from 2019.

The Committee considers the Policy, a step in the right direction which would go a long way to address some leadership and managerial deficits that have bedevilled a number of schools, especially at the basic level thus, affecting the performance of students in such institutions.

10.4 **Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET)**

i. 2018 IGF

The Committee observed that in 2018, COTVET's approved ceiling for IGF was GH¢333,771.00. However, as at November 2018, COTVET had generated internally, an amount of GH¢1,089,922.00 representing an excess of GH¢756,151.00 over the approved ceiling.

Deliberating on the issue, it came to the fore that as at November 2018, COTVET had expended all of its IGF approved ceiling on Goods and Services, and has other critical commitments to which funds would be required for its implementation. As a result, COTVET sought approval from the Ministry of Finance to utilise 100% of the amount generated. However, the Ministry of Finance granted the Council, administrative approval to utilise up to GH¢800,000 of its IGF. Thus, the additional funds of GH¢466,299.00



approved by the Ministry of Finance, has been committed to the following expenditure items:

- i. procurement of assets;
- ii. institutional visit/monitoring;
- iii. promotion/publicity of TVET activities;
- iv. standard generation workshops;
- v. on-site assessment for accreditation;
- vi. printing/publication; and
- vii. skills gap analysis and audit.

Even though COTVET proffered a justification for the utilisation of the additional funds of GH¢466,299.00, the Committee expressed worry over situations where Agencies would generate funds internally beyond the budget ceiling and keep the monies in their account. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure that Agencies project realistically, their targets for IGF at all times.

ii. 2019 Budgetary Allocation

For year 2019, COTVET has been provided with an amount of GH¢35,908,291.00 for the implementation of its programmes and activities. This comprises GH¢1,901,826.00 for Compensation, GH¢33,558,565.00 for Goods and Services and GH¢447,900.00 for Capital Expenditure.

COTVET intends, among others, to apply its allocation to establish seven (7) Sector Skills Bodies, commence the construction of a permanent office complex, train newly recruited and existing staff, facilitate the establishment of 20 new state-of-the-art Institutions, and roll-out career and counselling pilot project in 100 Junior High Schools in collaboration with GES.

The Committee acknowledges the important role the Council plays in ensuring that the youth of this country are equipped with the needed employable skills within the TVET system. It is therefore necessary for the Council to be provided with adequate funds to enable it effectively coordinate, implement, supervise and monitor skills development in the country.

## 10.5 National Service Scheme (NSS)

### i. Personnel Posted for the 2017/2018 Service Year

For the 2017/2018 Service year, the Scheme generated Personal Identification Numbers for a total of one hundred and thirty thousand (130,000) prospective National Service Persons (NSPs). The Committee noted that one hundred and three thousand, three hundred and forty-three (103,343) NSPs were enrolled and posted to the various Regions of the country for the 2017/2018 Service year as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>NSP Posted</u>
Ashanti	19,639
Brong Ahafo	8,494
Central	7,237
Eastern	7,553
Greater Accra	36,954
Northern	9,926
Upper East	2,651
Upper West	1,807
Volta	3,529
Western	<u>6,553</u>
	<u>103,343</u>

### ii. Refusal by NSPs to Accept Postings

The Committee observed that refusal by personnel to accept posting to some deprived communities across the country has been and continues to be a challenge to the Scheme. This situation leads to oversupply of service persons in the urban areas, thus depriving rural communities of the services of the Scheme.

The Committee urges the Scheme to intensify its public education on the need for personnel to demonstrate patriotism by accepting postings irrespective of the placement. The Committee also urges the Scheme to reward personnel who accept posting to deprived areas.

iii. Lack of Office Accommodation

It came to the attention of the Committee that a major challenge confronting the Scheme is lack of office accommodation for its staff in some of the Regions and Districts of the country. This situation obviously, impacts negatively on the performance of the Scheme particularly, at the Regional and District levels.

The Committee noted that inadequate releases of funds to the Scheme over the years, especially for capital expenditure, have contributed to the inability of the Scheme to provide office accommodation in some of the Regions and Districts of the country. The Committee was informed that as a temporary measure, the Scheme is consulting with the various Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies to provide space in their Assemblies for use by the Scheme's Regional and District officers.

The Committee considers the provision of office accommodation for staff of the Scheme's Regional and District offices as crucial if the Scheme is to deliver on its mandate. The Committee therefore urges the Sector Minister to ensure that measures are put in place to address this challenge in 2019.

iv. 2019 Budgetary Allocation

The National Service Scheme has been provided with an amount of GH¢602,869,904.00 for its programmes and activities for year 2019. This comprises GH¢594,169,904.00 for Compensation, GH¢5,600,000.00 for Goods and Services and GH¢3,100,000.00 for Capital Expenditure.

In year 2019, the Scheme plans to use its allocation for the implementation of the following programme, among others:

- i. Generate pins for a targeted number of 140,000 personnel.
- ii. Certificates for completed and qualified National Service Personnel.
- iii. Refurbish and repair of the Scheme's farm structures and equipment to increase production.
- iv. Commence the operationalisation of the Medie Water Project.
- v. Complete National Service Scheme Hostel in Takoradi.

The Committee urges the Scheme to utilise its budgetary allocation judiciously in the implementation of its planned programmes and activities for the year.

## 10.6 National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE)

### i. Funding Gap

The Committee observed that for the 2019 financial year, NCTE's GoG budgetary requirement is GH¢2,744,989,478. However, it has been allocated an amount of GH¢1,706,794,287 creating a funding gap of GH¢1,038,195,191. The details are shown in Table 8:

Table 8

#### GoG Funding Gap Analysis by Expenditure Item

Expenditure Item	Budgetary Requirement (BR)	Budgetary Allocation	Funding Gap	
	GHC	GHC	GHC	
	(A)	(B)	(C) = A-B	% of BR
Compensation	2,034,571,050	1,702,294,287	332,276,763	16.33
Goods and Services	568,800,644	4,500,000	564,300,644	99.21
Capital Expenditure	141,617,784	-	141,617,784	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,744,989,478</b>	<b>1,706,794,287</b>	<b>1,038,195,191</b>	<b>37.82</b>

Source: Presentation by NCTE on its 2019 Budgetary Allocation

As shown in Table 8, NCTE would require an amount of GH¢2,034,571,050 to cater for Compensation. However, the Council has been allocated an amount of GH¢1,702,294,287. For Goods and Services, NCTE has been allocated an amount of GH¢4,500,000 instead of its budgetary requirement of GH¢568,800,644. No allocation was made for Capital Expenditure even though NCTE budgeted for an amount of GH¢141,617,784.

It is obvious from the above that the funding gap would affect the implementation of some planned activities of the Council in year 2019. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funds to make up for the shortfall in the allocation to NCTE.

### ii. National Research Fund

Research plays an important role in the socio-economic development of every nation. It came to the fore during the consideration of the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry for the 2018 Financial Year that to further promote

research and innovation, a draft Bill seeking to establish a National Research Fund had been prepared by NCTE, and had been circulated among the Vice-Chancellors and other stakeholders of tertiary education institutions for their input.

The Committee was happy to note that NCTE finalised the draft Bill during the year and submitted it to Cabinet for approval. Cabinet has given approval for the establishment of the Fund, and has directed the Ministry of Education to work with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to restructure the National Research Fund draft Bill into a National Research and Innovation Fund Bill.

Undoubtedly, a National Research and Innovation Fund would provide the much needed resources to academia, individuals, researchers, and research institutions to enable them carry out research work, and encourage innovation.

### iii. Establishment of Open University in Ghana

The Committee noted that to expand access to, and participation in tertiary education, NCTE has sought the support of the Commonwealth of Learning to explore options for the creation of an independent Open University in Ghana that will solely be dedicated to the provision of open, distance and lifelong learning opportunities. NCTE, in 2019, will develop a legislative framework to that effect in consultation with stakeholders.

Considering the benefits that would be derived by the creation of an Open University in Ghana, the Committee urges NCTE to work assiduously to ensure that the creation of the Open University becomes a reality.

## 10.7 **West African Examinations Council (WAEC)**

### i. 2019 Budgetary Allocation

An amount of GH¢19,093,803.35 has been allocated to WAEC for the implementation of its programmes and activities for year 2019. Out of the total budgetary allocation, GH¢12,811,055.00 (67.1%) will be expended on Compensation, GH¢4,282,748.35 (22.4%) on Goods and Services, and GH¢2,000,000.00 (10.5%) on Capital Expenditure.

ii. 2019 BECE Fees

The Committee noted that the 2019 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) fees will cost each candidate, GH¢77.00.

Officials of WAEC informed the Committee that as was the practice in 2018, Government has offered to pay 100% of the fees for all public school candidates. In all, 388,265 candidates from public Junior High Schools are estimated to write the BECE in 2019, and absolving their examination fees will cost government, an amount of GH¢29,896,405.00.

The Committee urges government to release the funds on time to enable the Council prepare adequately, and conduct the examinations on schedule.

iii. Examination Malpractices

The Committee observed that examination malpractices continue to remain a challenge to WAEC.

The Committee was informed that in pursuance of its key objective of conducting examinations which are free from leakages and malpractices, WAEC has put in place, the under-listed measures, among others to curb the situation:

- a. biometric verification of students before examinations;
- b. the use of undercover security operatives to counter the activities of rogue website operators;
- c. intensify monitoring of the examination at various centres; and
- d. intensify the sensitisation of candidates and other stakeholders on the rules and regulations governing the conduct of examinations.

It came to the attention of the Committee that despite the efforts by WAEC to have incident free examinations in the country, there are some people who continue to develop new ways of perpetuating examination malpractices. WAEC is particularly concerned with the issue of some supervisors, invigilators, school authorities and parents, among others engaging in examination malpractices.

The Committee calls on the Council to effectively collaborate with state Security Agencies to check the activities of persons involved in examination malpractices, and punish offenders, irrespective of their status, to serve as a deterrent to others.

## 10.8 Ghana Library Authority

### i. 2019 Budgetary Allocation

For the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2019, the Ghana Library Authority has been allocated a total sum of GH¢10,350,932.00. This is made up of an amount of GH¢9,551,749.00 for Compensation, GH¢500,000.00 for Goods and Services and IGF component of GH¢299,243.00.

For 2019, the Authority, will utilise its allocation on the following activities, among others:

- Run national campaigns to promote literacy.
- Hold a “Book of the Year” competition.
- Launch a holiday reading/six book challenge.
- Commission National Children’s Library.
- Relaunch the mobile library service.
- Renovate SHS Libraries.
- Renovate and redesign existing library facilities.

### ii. Mobile Library Services and Renovation of Libraries

The Mobile Library Service is an important pro-poor outreach public library service. To ensure that the public has access to useful information needed for national development, the mobile library vans deliver services to communities without static libraries in order to bridge the gap in access to reading materials and Information and Communications Technology.

During the consideration of the 2018 Annual Budget Estimates, the Committee noted that maintaining and fuelling the ten-year old mobile vans of the Authority was a challenge due to inadequate resources.

The Committee was pleased to note that with the allocation of GH¢9,781,129.00 to the Authority in 2018, it has been able to fix some of its Mobile Library Vans. This has facilitated the delivery of quality library service to communities without static libraries.

The Committee further noted that the Authority commenced renovation works on some of its libraries in 2018. For instance, renovation works on the Children's Library at the Airport Residential area in Accra is 98% complete. The Brong Ahafo Regional Library is 65% complete while the Volta Regional Library is 85% complete.

The Committee commends the Authority for its achievements and urges the Authority to revamp the country's library system to improve the reading culture of Ghanaians, particularly the youth.

#### 10.9 **Students Loan Trust Fund**

##### i. Loan Disbursement and Repayment

The Students Loan Trust Fund exists to provide financial support to tertiary level students of accredited tertiary institutions pursuing accredited tertiary programmes. Pursuant to its goal, the Fund, as at the end of the 2017/18 academic year, had disbursed an amount of GH¢78.95 million as loans to 31,980 students. 6,530 students out of a total of 32,481 students have also been paid an amount of GH¢8 million in the first semester of 2018/19 academic year.

The Committee noted that repayment of loans by students remain a challenge to the Fund. Officials of the Fund informed the Committee that as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Fund had been able to recover loans amounting to GH¢24 million as against a target of GH¢30 million.

Officials of the Fund further informed the Committee that measures have been put in place to intensify the Fund's efforts at recovering loans from borrowers. One of such efforts is engaging the services of a Credit Reference Bureau to trace borrowers who are due to commence repayment of their loans.



The Committee commends the Students Loan Trust Fund for its efforts at ensuring the sustainability of the Fund and urges Management of the Fund not to renege on its efforts at optimising loan recoveries.

## 11.0 CONCLUSION

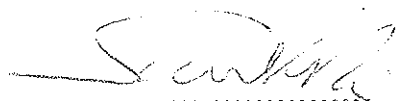
The fundamental role education plays in the socio-economic development of every nation cannot be underestimated. Thus, it is necessary to adequately resource the Ministry of Education to enable it achieve its set goals.

Unfortunately, out of the total sum of GH¢11,195,401,221.00 allocated to the Ministry for year 2019, only GH¢1,467,603,963.00 constituting 13.11% of the total budgetary allocation has been provided for Goods and Services. Apart from this allocation being inadequate, late releases of funds for Goods and Services would have serious implications for the smooth implementation of programmes and activities of the Ministry.

The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure that funds, particularly for Goods and Services, are released timeously to enable the Ministry perform its functions effectively.

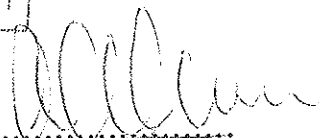
In the light of the foregoing, the Committee recommends that the House approves the sum of **eleven billion, one hundred and ninety-five million, four hundred and one thousand, two hundred and twenty-one cedis (GH¢11,195,401,221.00)** for the implementation of the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Education for the 2019 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.



**STEVENS SIAKA (HON.)**  
**(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON**  
**EDUCATION)**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY



**ABIGAIL ABA ANSO**  
**(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)**

