

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

**REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**

ON THE

**2019 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC
EDUCTAION**

December 2018

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGETS COMMITTEE ON THE
2019 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (NCCE)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Budget Estimates of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) were on Thursday, 15th November 2018 referred to the Special Budgets Committee for consideration and report in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Standing Orders 140(4). This followed the presentation of the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2019 financial year by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori Atta on behalf of the President of the Republic of Ghana.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met with the Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Josephine Nkrumah and officials from the NCCE and Ministry of Finance and discussed the Estimates. The Committee is grateful to the Chairperson and officials for their assistance.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following additional documents in the Course of its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. National Commission for Civic Education Act, 1993 (Act 452)
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year;
- v. The 2019 MTEF Estimates for National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).

- vi. *The Coordinated Program of Economic and Social Policies*
- vii. *The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*
- viii. *The African Union (AU) Agenda 2063.*

4.0 MISSION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission is established to promote and sustain democracy and inculcate into the Ghanaian citizenry the awareness of their rights and obligations through civic education. To this end, the core functions of the Commission include:

- *Create and sustain within the society, the awareness of the principles and objectives of the Constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Ghana;*
- *Educate and encourage the public to defend the Constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violation;*
- *Formulate for the consideration of Government, from time to time, programs at national, regional and district levels aimed at realizing the objectives of the constitution;*
- *Formulate, implement and oversee programs intended to inculcate in the citizens of Ghana the awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people; and*
- *Assess for the information of Government, the limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from the existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for redressing these inequalities.*

4.0 2018 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

For the year 2018 financial year an amount of **Forty-Eight Million, Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred And Twelve Ghana Cedis (GH¢48,019,612.00)** was allocated to the **National Commission for Civic Education** to enable it undertake its programs and activities. As at September 2018 the Commission expended an amount of **Twenty Four Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-nine Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty-Ghana Cedis (GH¢28,554,411)** representing 59.46% of its allocation. The breakdown of the 2018 allocation by cost center and actual releases as at September 2018 is as follows in table 1.

Table 1: PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF 2018 BUDGET OF NCCE

Item	2018 ALLOCATION N (GH¢) A	AMOUNT RELEASED 30/09/2018 (GHC B	AMOUNT RECEIVED (GH¢) C	Variance (GH¢) A-C	(%) RELE ASED
Compensation of Employees	44,873,522	31,367,915	27,011,639	17,861,883	60.19 %
Goods and Services	2,146,090	1,101,581	1,099,777	1,046,013	51.24 %
Capital Expenditure	1,000,000	442,995	442,995	557,005	44.29 %
Total	48,019,612	32,912,491	28,554,411	19,465,201	59.46 %%

4.1 **ACHIEVEMENTS MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN THE 2018 BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR**

Notwithstanding its financial challenges, the Commission made some key achievements during the year under review in the following thematic areas of its mandate;

- **Under management and administration the Commission** managed to organize training workshops for selected staff of the Commission for effective and efficient service delivery. Furtherance to its capacity building requirements, the Commission provided a Training of Trainers workshop on the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) for its staff using facilitators and Resource persons from Ministry of Finance.

- The Commission provided capacity building training to Regional Directors and their Deputies, Head office, Regional Auditors, Regional Accountants and their Assistants, Heads of Regional Programmes Department and Human Resource Department Staff on Performance Management and Risk Management and other related topics to enhance the work of the Commission.

- Furthermore the European Union supported staff of the Research Department to enhance their capacity on the dissemination of research reports.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- NCCEs research Department produced two monitoring reports on a nationwide campaign on tax compliance in collaboration with the Ghana Revenue Authority during its Citizenship Week Celebration in 370 Basic Schools in 54 selected Districts in all the regions of the country.

CIVIC EDUCATION

- The Commission met with Four hundred (400) community and stakeholders on corruption and the need to fight it.

- Three thousand, two hundred and fifty- three (3,253) activities were organised on Nation building, co-existence and tolerance for national development;

- Also, one hundred and fifty- eight (158) programmes relating to Child Protection especially human trafficking, child labour and forced marriage were carried out during the period under review in selected districts with emphasis on the fundamental human rights of children to promote their development and well-being;
- Furthermore, Several Radio and TV Discussion/ Talk Shows were held to promote Tax Compliance, Good Sanitation practices and education on Anti- Corruption to curb corrupt practices in the Ghanaian society;

In pursuance of its mandate Under Patriotism and Good Citizenship, the NCCE also had engagements in the following manner:

- Organised a symposium for about nineteen thousand, four hundred and nine (19,409) Basic Schools across the country during its Citizenship Week Celebration under the theme "OUR NATION, OUR HERITAGE: CONSOLIDATING GHANA'S DEMOCRATIC GAINS" with the sub-themes "OUR TAXES BUILD A GREAT GHANA" and "THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOU". The activities were used to admonish in-school youth on Good Citizenship and Patriotism particularly Tax Compliance as well as Good Environmental and Sanitation practises.
- Met with the Security Services on transparency and accountability during the 2018 Constitution Week Celebration, thus reminding them that they are stakeholders in the consolidation of democracy in its bid to promote discipline and patriotism among the security services.
- NCCE again organised an inter university Semi-Final and Final Inter-University debate under the theme "Restoring our Ghanaian Values as Active Citizens". The competition which was also dubbed "Civic Challenge" elicited students' knowledge of the 1992 constitution and their readiness to defend it.

5.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2019

In furtherance of its mandate and stated objectives the NCCE will undertake the following activities among others in the 2019 financial year:

- i. To organize Public Education/Awareness Creation on the Election by universal adult suffrage of MMDCEs in Ghana; Public Education on

Increased Citizens Participation in Local Governance and the 2019 District Level Elections (DLEs)

- ii. *To provide Education to the citizenry to improve Tax Compliance by the public and as well sensitize the public on Good Environmental Sanitation in the Country*
- iii. *To continue to engage and sensitize the Citizenry on Anti-Corruption, Rule of Law and Accountability as part of its Anticorruption drive.*
- iv. *To embark on a programme to educate the public and sensitize them on the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) and on Child Protection*
- v. *To continue its Sensitization drive on NACAP with a Focus on stakeholder institutions and their roles.*
- vi. *To continue its sensitization drive with various groups on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms.*
- vii. *To engage the marginalized and excluded such as Women, People leaving with Disabilities on the need to participate in governance and also intensify Civic Education Club activities in schools (CECs)*
- viii. *To continue its Radio/TV discussions on Tolerance and National Integration as well as undertake Social Auditing engagements to empower citizens to demand accountability from duty bearers*
- ix. *To continue its education and sensitization of the public on the principles of the 1992 Constitution to increase awareness, advocacy and enforcement of citizen's rights and responsibilities.*

5.1 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2019

*In order for the National Commission for Civic Education to execute its mandate, an amount of **Forty-Six Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, One Hundred And Forty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢46,693,148)** for its activities in the 2019 financial year. **This sum is made up of Forty-Five Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Cedis (GH¢ 45,578,190)** from*

GoG source and **One Million, one Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty Eight Ghana Cedis. (GH¢1,114,958)** from Development Partners Fund.

The allocation is to be disbursed among the three main expenditure items as follows:

Table 2: Disbursement of 2019 Budget Allocation

ITEM	BUDGET ALLOCATED (GH¢)
Compensation of employee	42,429,919
Goods and Service	2,173,271
Capital Expenditure	975,000
Develop Partners Fund	1,114,958
Total	46,693,148

The 2019 budget of NCCE will be expended on two programmes and seven sub programs as follow:

Table 3: 2019 Allocation by Program and sub-program

S/N	Program	Sub Programmes	2019 allocation (GH¢)
1	Management and Administration	General Administration and Human Resource	12,440,889
		Finance	601,999
		Research, Gender and Equality	411,699

		Communication and Corporate Affairs	523,492
2	Civic Education	Constitutional Awareness Creation	10,294,736
		Deepening and Sustaining Civil Awareness	12,681,107
		Patriotism and Good Governance	9,739,225
Total			46,693,148

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee after a careful examination of the Estimates of the National Commission on Civic Education, made the following observations:

6.1 Inadequate Budgetary Allocation to NCCE

The Committee noted that the 2019 budget did not allocate enough resources to meet the capital expenditure requirement of the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE). The Chairperson of the NCCE informed the Committee that the Commission requires the sum of **GH¢11,691,142** to meet some urgent investment activities in 2019. However, the 2019 budget allocated a mere **GH¢975,000** representing only 8.33% of its requirement. Again, out of a budget proposal of **GH¢28,803,926** only **GH¢2,173,271** representing 7.54% of the Commission's requirement for Goods and Services was allocated in the 2019 budget.

The NCCE for instance lacks adequate logistics for effective discharge of its functions. The Committee learnt that the NCCE is constrained by many

challenges including lack of adequate office space to accommodate staff. Most of the vehicles at the disposal of the Commission are over-aged and the result is the high service and maintenance cost as well as frequent breakdowns. The Commission suffers from inadequacy of staff strength as a result of deaths resignation and retirements as well as non-replacement of vacant positions amongst others.

The Commission informed the Committee that budgetary allocation to the NCCE has always been insignificant and the NCCE has over the years relied on the benevolence of development partners to finance very critical activities of the Commission.

The Committee is of the view that the activities of the NCCE are very essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as contained in the Medium Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF). There is therefore the need for adequate funding to be extended to the NCCE to implement their activities in order to sensitize a significant number of Ghanaians to attain awareness of the principles and objectives of the 1992 Constitution as a fundamental law of the People of Ghana.

The Committee therefore recommends that, Act 452, 1993 of the NCCE should be amended to provide a clause that will insulate the NCCE from the Ministry of Finance budget cuts and to provide for the Commission's Budget to be sent to the President for his comments and forwarded to Parliament for approval. The Committee view is that since Article 234 provides that the Commission should not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority in the performance of its function, the NCCE should be insulated from the budget hearings of the Ministry of Finance. According to the Committee a provision to insulate them would enable NCCE submit a budget estimate devoid of budget ceilings from Ministry of Finance to meet its expenditure requirements.

The Committee therefore recommends to the Ministry of Finance to allocate additional funds in the Mid-year review budget to support the Capital expenditure needs of the NCCE.

6.2 Insufficient Budget Provision for NCCE's Civic Education Programmes

The Committee observed with concern that notwithstanding a marginal increase in the allocation of Goods and services from **GH¢2,146,090** in 2018 to **GH¢2,173,271** in the 2019 budget of the Commission, from a request of **GH¢28,803,926** to **GH¢2,173,271** for Goods and Services. The Committee noted that, no resource has been allocated to NCCE in the 2019 budget for public education on the upcoming referendum on the creation of new districts and Regions and district level elections.

The Chairperson of the Commission reiterated that budgetary allocation to the NCCE has never been commensurate with the Commission's operational requirements. She stated that the support from development Partners has decreased as a result of Ghana's attainment of Middle income Status. She argued that this year's development partner's support of **GH¢1,114,958** is not guaranteed. She is of the view that if the donor inflows fail, against the backdrop of minimal GoG allocation for its activities, voter turn out in the upcoming District assemblies election and awareness creation for a referendum on the creation of new Districts and Regions may be negatively impacted.

The Committee was informed that the creation of new Districts and Regions is an additional cost Centre which requires a corresponding increase in budgetary allocation to the NCCE. The Chairperson explained to the Committee that, NCCE submitted its budget on operational needs for Goods and Service to the tune of **GH¢28,803,926** to the Ministry of Finance to fund Civic and Voter Education for the District Level Elections and other related programmes such as the up coming referendum on newly created Districts and Region amongst others.

The Committee's view is that the amount allocated for Goods and services is, to all intents and purposes, inadequate to meet recurrent expenditure of the Commission and may further disable the NCCE's to deliver on its mandate of providing Civic education in 2019.

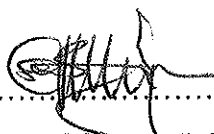
The Committee noted that, in the event that the Commission is unable to execute its mandate of supporting the elections, it would affect voter turnout on District level elections owing to insufficient voter education.

The Committee opined that the activity is a local Government related activity, therefore the Ministry of Local Government and the Common Fund Administrator are strongly urged to supplement the NCCE's funding to support this very important activity.

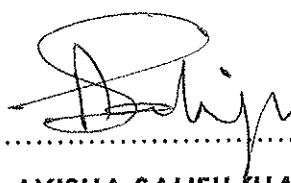
7.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee after carefully examining the 2019 Estimates of the NCCE and having regard to the strategic role of the Commission in the democratic dispensation of the country, recommends that the House approves the sum of **Forty-Six Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, One Hundred And Forty-Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢46, 693, 148.00)** to enable the Commission implement its programmes and activities for the 2019 financial year

Respectfully submitted.



HON. OSETKYEI-MENSAH-BONSU
MAJORITY LEADER AND CHAIRMAN,
(SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)



AYISHA SALIFU (HAJIA)
ASSIST CLERK,
SPECIAL BUEDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER, 2018

