

IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA



**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE
AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GHANA (PRE-
UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2020**

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana (Pre-University Educational Institutions) for the year ended 31st December, 2020 was laid before the House by the Hon. Majority Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and referred to the Public Accounts Committee for examination and report in accordance with Order 165(2) of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.

2.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To consider the Report, the Committee met with the Hon. Deputy Minister of Education, the Officials of the Ghana Education Service, Staff of the Audit Service, Regional and District Directors of Education, Heads of Pre-University Educational Institutions and their technical staff.

The Committee is grateful to the officials for their cooperation and assistance. The Committee also extends its profound gratitude to the Public Affairs Department of Parliament and other media houses for the live broadcast of the Committees' sittings.

3.0. REFERENCE

The Committee was guided in its deliberations by the following legal Instruments:

- i. The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana
- iii. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921)
- iv. The Public Procurement Act 2003 (Act 663)
- v. The Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 2016 (Act 914)
- vi. The Audit Service Act, 2000 (Act 584)
- vii. The Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658)
- viii. The Income Tax Act 2015 (Act 896)
- ix. The Value Added Tax Act, 2013 (Act 870)
- x. The Public Financial Management Regulation, 2019 (LI 2378) (PFMR)

4.0. PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT

The Audit was undertaken in accordance with Article 187 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana which mandates the Auditor-General to audit the Public Accounts of Ghana and all public offices, institutions, and organisations and report to Parliament.

The purpose of the audit was for the Auditor-General to express his opinion on whether:

- a. the accounts of the Pre-University Educational Institutions had been properly kept;

- b. all public monies collected had been fully accounted for and the applicable rules, regulations and procedures are sufficient to provide an effective check on the assessment, collection and proper allocation of revenue;
- c. monies had been spent for the purpose for which they were appropriated and expenditures made as authorised;
- d. essential records were maintained and applicable rules and procedures applied were sufficient to safeguard and control the assets of the institutions;
- e. financial activities of the institutions had been undertaken with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness; and
- f. the financial statements of the institutions give a true and fair view of their financial positions as at the end of the year.

5.0. METHODOLOGY

In undertaking this exercise, the Committee zoned the country into four:

- Zone 1 covered Northern, North East, Savanna, Upper East and Upper West regions,
- Zone 2 is made up of the Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Ashanti, Western North regions
- Zone 3 comprised Greater Accra, Volta, Oti and Eastern regions and
- Zone 4 covered Central and Western regions.

The Committee received both oral and written submissions from the officials of all the Institutions cited by the Auditor-General. Status Report on the findings and implementation of the recommendations of the Auditor-General was also presented to the Committee by the Director-General of the Ghana Education Service and the Audit Service at the Regional and District levels.

All witnesses who appeared before the Committee subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and answered questions relating to the issues/queries raised by the Auditor-General in his report and on issues of general public interest.

All the eight hundred and thirteen (813) Pre-University Educational Institutions cited in the Auditor-General's report appeared with their heads, the accountants and where necessary, officers who supervised the infractions identified by the Auditor-General.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Audit Committees of the institutions cited should implement in full, the recommendations of the Auditor-General in the Report and the Recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee and report to Parliament without any delay.

6.0. SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

The findings of the Auditor General relate to Cash Irregularities, Procurement/Stores Irregularities, Tax Irregularities, Payroll Irregularities and Contracts Irregularities. The overall impact of the irregularities amounted to **GH¢41,778,465.97** compared to **GH¢23,492,458.34** in 2019.

The Committee noted that the irregularities discovered by the Auditor-General increased from GH¢23,492,458.34 in 2019 to GH¢41,778,465.97 in 2020 representing **77.84%** increase. The detailed analysis of the 2019 and 2020 irregularities are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: An analysis of 2019 and 2020 irregularities

Type of Irregularities	2019 (GH¢ Million)	2020 (GH¢ Million)	Variance	%
Cash Irregularities	6,713,698.31	13,352,792.21	6,639,093.90	98.89
Stores/ Procurement Irregularities	13,547,650.41	13,246,146.53	(301,503.88)	(2.23)
Payroll Irregularities	746,087.60	688,955.46	(57,132.14)	(7.66)
Tax	961,808.70	376,495.25	12,590,863.20	826.60
Contract Irregularities	1,523,213.32	14,114,076.52	(585,313.45)	(60.86)
Total	23,492,458.34	41,778,465.97	18,286,007.63	77.84

7.0. COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. OVERSTATEMENT.

The Committee noted that the total value of irregularities in the Auditor-General's report was overstated by **GHC730,893.95**. This brings the total infractions down to **GHC41,047,572.02** from GHC41,778,465.97 as stated in the report.

The overstatement is in the following areas in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Overstatement in the 2020 Auditor-General's Report

Region/ Institution	Nature of Irregularity	Value in the Report (GHC)	Corrected Value (GHC)	Overstatement/ Understatement (GHC)
Ahafo	Payroll	14,335.58	14,335.80	(0.22)
Obiri Yeboah	Unearned Salaries	48,266.16	40,111.59	8,154.57
Mando SHS	Unearned Salaries	7,547.36	6,716.36	831.00
Gomoa Gyaman SHS	Unsupported Payments	20,015	2,015	18,000.00
Bono	Rent Arrears	15,365.34	12,115	3,250.34
Eastern	Cash	207,859.75	223,614.82	(15,755.07)
Eastern	Payroll	57,250.06	41,889.13	15,360.93
Eastern	Procurement/St ores	883,886.88	200,340.00	683,546.88
Greater Accra	Cash Irregularities	540,522.33	536,258.33	4,264.00
Greater Accra	Procurement /Stores Irregularities	501,609.40	501,618.40	(9.00)
Volta	Tax	26,384.31	26,383.79	0.52
Bia Lampighter College of Education	Unsupported Payments	149,303.90	136,053.90	13,250.00
Total		2,472,346.07	1,741,452.12	730,893.95

The error affected the value of irregularities regarding Cash, Payroll, Stores/ Procurement and Tax as identified by the Auditor-General. The adjusted irregularities are as follows:

Table 3: Adjusted Irregularities

SN	Type of Irregularity	Value per the Report (GH¢) Million	Overstatement (GH¢)	Adjusted Irregularities (GH¢)
1	Cash	13,352,792.21	23,009.27	13,329,782.94
2	Payroll	688,955.46	24,346.28	664,609.18
3	Contract	14,114,076.52	-	14,114,076.52
4	Procurement/ Stores	13,246,146.53	683,537.88	12,562,599.65
5	Tax	376,495.25	0.52	376,494.73
	Total	41,778,465.97	730,893.95	41,047,572.02

7.2. STATUS OF 2020 IRREGULARITIES

The Committee noted that most of the institutions had complied with the recommendations of the Auditor-General in respect of the irregularities cited against them. At the time of Committee sitting, affected institutions had either regularized the transactions or refunded monies expended without due regard to laid down regulations. A total amount of **GH¢20,639,775.77 or 50.28%** out of a total infraction of **GH¢41,047,572.02** was resolved leaving a balance of **GH¢20,407,796.25 or 49.72%** unresolved. It is worth to note that many of the resolved irregularities were done after the Institutions concerned received letters to appear before the Public Accounts Committee.

The detailed analysis of the status of the 2020 irregularities is presented in the following table:

Table 4: Status of 2020 Irregularities

Type of Irregularity	2020 Irregularities (GH¢)	Irregularities Resolved (GH¢)	Outstanding (GH¢)	% Resolved
Cash	13,329,782.94	11,723,482.31	1,606,300.63	87.95
Payroll	664,609.18	504,964.41	159,644.77	75.98
Contract	14,114,076.52	2,089,574.64	12,024,501.88	14.80
Procurement/ Stores	12,562,608.65	6,090,549.51	6,472,059.14	48.48
Tax	376,494.73	231,204.90	145,289.83	61.41
Total	41,047,572.02	20,639,775.77	20,407,796.25	50.28

8.0. UNRESOLVED AUDIT ISSUES, COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the Committee sitting the following issues remains unresolved:

8.1. UNSUPPORTED PAYMENTS GH¢340,876.69

The Management of 44 institutions in 10 regions could not authenticate total payments of GH¢ 3,549,492.62 with the relevant supporting documents contrary to regulations 78 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019 (L I 2378). The Auditors recommended that the heads of the institutions and their Accountants should refund the amounts.

At the time of the Committee sitting, payments amounting to GH¢ 3,208,615.93 had been authenticated by supporting the payment vouchers with the required invoices, receipts among other supporting documents.

The outstanding unsupported payments of **GH¢340,876.69** is in the name of the following institutions:

Table 5: Outstanding Unsupported Payments

SN	Institution	Total Infraction GH¢	Recovered GH¢	Outstanding GH¢
1	Nursing and Midwifery Training College Mampong	30,767.69	0.00	30,767.69
2	Oweriman SHTS, Domeabra	40,980.00	0.00	40,980.00
3	Dunkwa Nursing and Midwifery Training College	269,129.00	0.00	269,129.00
	Total	340,876.69	0.00	340,876.69

During the deliberations it emerged that, improper record keeping and poor supervision of account officers by heads of institutions contributed largely to the large amounts of unsupported payments recorded in the audit report.

The Committee recommends that the heads of the institutions and the officers who supervised the payments should be surcharged with the outstanding amount of GH¢340,876.69 if the necessary supporting documents are not provided to authenticate the payments.

8.2. UNCOLLECTED RENT/ARREARS GH¢34,316.00

Management of 41 institutions from 11 regions failed to collect rent due amounting to GH¢265,861.80 from 690 officers in contravention of section 46 of the Public Financial Management regulations, 2019 (LI 2378). The Auditor-General recommended to the heads and accountants of the institutions to take the necessary action to immediately recover the outstanding rent from the defaulting tenants.

At the time of the public hearing, an amount of GH¢231,545.80 had been recovered leaving an outstanding amount of **GH¢34,316.00** in the names of the following institutions;

	Institution	Amount GH¢
i.	Krachi Senior High School	- 11,261.00
ii.	Osudoku Senior High Technical School	- 3,882.00
iii.	Kpone Community Day SHS	- 1,800.00
iv.	Labone Senior High School	- 11,483.00
v.	Nsawora Edumafua Community SHS	- 2,513.00
vi.	Sefwi Wiawso SHS	- 3,377.00
	Total	- <u>34,316.00</u>

The Committee recommends the recovery of the outstanding rent from the Headmasters and Accountants of the affected institutions. The affected heads may also pursue the defaulters for refund. The Committee further urges management to institute measures to ensure prompt payment of rent.

8.3. OUTSTANDING SALARY ADVANCES - GH¢185,939.33

Contrary to regulation 46 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019, the Management of 23 institutions in 11 regions failed to recover outstanding salary advances amounting to GH¢346,118.95 from 110 officers. The Auditor-General recommended to Management of the affected institutions to recover the amount from the affected staff and further institute measures to strengthen the rate of recovery of advances granted.

At the time of the Committee Sitting, it was discovered that a total amount of GH¢160,179.62 was recovered leaving an outstanding amount of **GH¢185,939.33** in the name of the following seven (7) schools.

Table 6: Outstanding Salary Advances

SN	Name Of School	Total Advances (GH¢)	Amount Retrieved (GH¢)	Outstanding (GH¢)
1	St. Patrick's Midwifery Training School	13,918.00	0.00	13,918.00
2	OLA College of Education	13,250.00	11,150	2,100.00
3	Ada College of Education	16,404.60	0.00	16,404.60
4	Presbyterian Nurses Training College, Bawku	4,240.83	0.00	4,240.83
5	McCoy College of Education	98,097.00	0.00	98,097.00
6	Piina Senior High School	6,500.00	5,460.00	1,040.00
7	Mawuko Girls Senior High School	53,638.90	3,500	50,138.9
	Total	206,049.33	20,110.00	185,939.33

The committee recommended that the management of the affected Institutions should continue with measures to recover the money from the affected staff and put measures in place including stricter sanctions to ensure quick recovery of advances.

8.4. UNEARNED SALARIES - GH¢109,311.00

The audit disclosed that Management of 44 institutions in 12 regions paid unearned salaries of GH¢ GH¢591,722.29 to 94 separated staff in contravention of Regulation 92 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019.

The Auditor-General recommended that the Heads of the Institutions and the salary validators should refund the amount if the unearned salaries could not be recovered from the beneficiaries or the next of kin of the separated staff. During the Public Sitting, it was observed that the total of GH¢482,411.29 was recovered leaving an outstanding balance of **GH¢109,311** in the name of the following institutions:

Table 7: Outstanding Unearned Salary

Name of institution	Amount(GH¢)
Bosome Freho Senior High School	5,394.84
Manso Adubia Senior High School	10,893.73
Obiri Yeboah Senior High School	19,227.23
Boa Amponsem Senior High School	7,421.73
Community Development and Vocational School	11,945.33
Diabene Senior High Technical School	11,091.91
Sekondi Nursing and Midwifery Training College	1,483.29
Wa Senior High Technical	7,551.00
St John Integrated Senior High School	3449.55
Chemu Senior High School	11,103.29
Wesley Grammar Senior High School, Dansoman	10,154.10
Kpassa Senior High School	9,595.00
Total	109,311.00

The Committee recommended that the institutions affected should enforce stricter measures to recover the outstanding amount fully.

8.5. FAILURE TO TRANSFER UNEARNED SALARY INTO GOVT. SUSPENSE ACCOUNT - GH¢2,039.66

The Auditor-General noted that Mr. Odum Worlali, a watchman of Wovenu Senior High School vacated post in July 2019 whilst he was paid a total unearned salary of GH¢2,039.66 as at 31 January 2020. The headmaster wrote to his bankers (Unity Rural Bank Limited) to place an embargo on his salary and subsequently stopped it.

The headmaster further requested Unity Rural Bank Ltd to transfer the unearned salary of GH¢2,039.66 into Government's Consolidated Fund but his request was not complied with. The bank has therefore deprived the State of the amount GH¢2,039.66. The Auditor-General therefore recommended that the headmaster employs all means possible for the bank to recover the amount involved to the Government Consolidated Fund on or before the June, 2021 as stated in the bank's letter.

The Committee noted that the efforts made by the Headmaster have yielded no positive result and considering the amount involved, the Committee is recommending a write off of this amount to save further spending of government funds,

8.6. LOCK UP FUNDS - GH¢131,334.96

The Audit revealed that two schools could not access funds amounting to GH¢271,760.02 in their respective bank accounts contrary to section 7 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 Act (921).

The Auditor-General recommended to management of the two schools to notify the Regulators, that is, Bank of Ghana and Apex Bank to prevail on the Banks to enable the schools access their funds.

The Committee noted that an amount of GH¢140,425.06 had been recovered leaving an outstanding amount of **GH¢131,334.96**. The breakdown is as follows

Table 8: Outstanding Funds with Financial Institutions

Institution	Financial Institution	Amount GH¢	Recovered GH¢	Outstanding GH¢
Kwegyir Aggrey SHTS	Ekumfi Rural Bank (Essuehyia Branch)	155,425.06	140,425.06	15,000.00
Bunkpurugu SHTS	Tisungtaaba Community Bank (Gambaga)	116,334.96	0.00	116,334.96
Total		271,760.02	140,425.06	131,334.96

The Committee noted that ARB Apex Bank had taken steps to pay GH¢5,000 monthly to offset the outstanding amount owed Kwegyir Aggrey SHTS. However, Management of Bunkpurugu SHTS had written to Bank of Ghana and the Director General of Ghana Education Service to assist the school retrieve the locked funds from the receiver of the Bank.

8.7. UNCREDITED LODGEMENTS - GH¢14,491.80

The Audit disclosed that lodgments totaling GH¢83,133.83 were not credited to the bank account of five schools by their bankers. The Audit recommendation was that the management of the five schools should take legal actions against the banks to recover the amounts with interest.

At the time of the Committee sitting, it was observed that an amount of GH¢68,642.03 was recovered leaving an outstanding amount of **GH¢14,491.80**. The Committee further noted that the bank in question, GN Bank has become insolvent and Management has agreed on a payment plan the receiver for the recovery of the outstanding amount in installments.

The Committee urged the management to ensure that the receiver adheres to the agreed payment plan for the recovery of the outstanding amount.

8.8. UNPAID UTILITY BILLS - GH¢2,778,483.50

We noted that twenty-one (21) schools owe water and electricity bills to service providers amounting to GH¢3,197,806.81 in contravention of section 2 of the Financial Accounting Instruction for Schools and Colleges. To avoid disconnection which will adversely affect teaching and learning, the Auditor-General recommended to the heads of the institutions to liaise with the Director General of the Ghana Education Service to release funds for the settlement of the bills.

During the sitting, it was noted that utility bills amounting to GH¢419,323.31 has been paid by fourteen school leaving a balance of **GH¢2,778,483.50** in the name of the following schools:

Table 9: Outstanding Utility Bills

SN	Institution	Utility	Amount Owed (GHs)	Amount Paid (GHs)	Outstanding Amount (GHs)
1	Community Development Vocational & Technical Institute, Kintampo	Electricity	27,100.08	5,000	22,100.08
2	Community Development Vocational & Technical Institute, Kintampo	Water	7,623.75	0.00	7,623.75
3	Salevugu School for the Dead	Electricity	152,909.56	12,000	140,909.56
4	Wa Senior High Technical	Electricity	268,541.65	19,733.06	248,808.59
5	Wa Technical Institute		163,931.68	0.00	163,931.68
6	Wa School for the Deaf	Electricity	188,963.35	5,000	183,963.35
7	Queen of Peace Senior High School	Electricity	52,373.89	24,619.29	27,754.60
8	Funsi Senior High School	Electricity	17,112.56	2,594.15	14,518.41
9	Jirapa Senior High School	Electricity	189,399.67	0.00	189,399.67

10	Kanton Senior High School	Electricity	125,279.95	93,442.18	31,837.77
11	Holy Family Senior High School	Electricity	30,645.13	0.00	30,645.13
12	Methodist School for the Blind, Wa	Electricity	55,119.96	6,608.85	48,511.11
13	T.I Ahmadiyya Senior High School, Wa	Electricity	442,325.03	74,494.85	367,830.18
14	N. J. A. College of Education	Electricity	500,050.23	0.00	500,050.23
15	Kaleo Senior High Technical School	Electricity	88,872.13	52,878.87	35,993.26
16	Lassia Tuolu	Electricity	87,925.60	52,955.62	34,969.98
17	St. Augustine's Senior High School	Electricity	15,771.30	7,216.28	8,555.02
18	St. Don Bosco Special School	Electricity	50,351.75	22,000	28,351.75
19	Wa Senior High School	Electricity	642,026.21	40,780.16	601,246.05
20	Yamfo Vocational Institute	Electricity	27,648.00	0.00	27,648.00
21	Yamfo Vocational Institute	Water	63,835.33	0.00	63,835.33
	Total		3,197,806.81	419,323.31	2,778,483.50

The Deputy Minister of Education revealed that the Free SHS Secretariat and Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) through the Ministry of Education has released an amount of GH¢3,000,000 to settle outstanding utility bills in a number of schools. She was hopeful that the schools cited in the report will benefit from the facility.

The Committee therefore urged the Minister to ensure that the schools listed above are prioritized in the subsequent release of funds for the payment of utility bills to avert eminent disconnection with its attendant effect on teaching and learning.

8.9. NON-COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT - GH¢2,268,101.14

Management of 49 institutions made payments for goods and services totaling GH¢2,788,376.31 without seeking for alternative quotations from other potential suppliers, contrary to Section 20 of the Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 914.

The Auditor-General recommended that they should be sanctioned in accordance with section 92 of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) as amended by Section 51 of Act 914 for Breach of Procurement Rules. Out of GH¢2,788,376.31, an amount of GH¢520,275.17 was resolved leaving an outstanding balance of **GH¢2,268,101.14** in the name of twenty (25) institutions. (Names attached in Appendix 1).

The Committee noted that breaching Section 20 of the Public Procurement Act 914 is an offence for which sanction is prescribed under the Public Procurement Act. The Committee therefore recommends to the Attorney-General to take steps sanction the officers of the 25 institutions indicted for procurement breaches.

8.10. UNACCOUNTED REVENUE - GH¢233,520.00

The Audit noted that six schools failed to account for a total revenue of GH¢285,339 collected as school fees, rent and other revenue in violation of Regulation 46 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019. The Auditors recommended that managements of the schools should recover the amount from the defaulting officers and sanction them for breach of repayment agreements.

The Committee noted that a total amount of GH¢51,819 had been recovered leaving a balance of **GH¢233,520** in the names of the following institutions:

Institution	Amount GH¢
Mampong Technical College of Education	137,400.00
St. Monica's College of Education, Mampong	96,120.00
Total	<u>233,520.00</u>

8.11. WRONGFUL PAYMENT OF TAX REVENUE TO EOCO - GH¢16,923.75

Management of Tolon Senior High School paid a total amount of GH¢16,923.75 to the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), Tamale instead of Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA). The payment was in respect of VAT and withholding taxes by the school which were identified by the EOCO team during a review of the school's records. The Auditor-General recommended to the headmaster to take the necessary steps to ensure that Tax revenue of GH¢16,923.75 paid to EOCO is transferred to GRA.

8.12. UNPRESENTED PAYMENT VOUCHERS - GH¢23,985.00

Five institutions in two regions could not account for GH¢115,425.07 out of total payments of GH¢239,585.44 on 68 payment vouchers to various suppliers and service providers. The Auditor-General recommended that the heads and Accountants of the institutions should refund the amount of GH¢115,425.07.

It was noticed at the Public Hearing that, payment vouchers amounting to GH¢91,440.07 has been presentation leaving an outstanding amount of **GH¢23,985.00** in the name of Mampong Nursing and Midwifery College.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Management of the College should refund the total value of the outstanding payment vouchers amounting **GH¢23,985.00**.

8.13. FUEL PURCHASES NOT ACCOUNTED FOR - GH¢28,339.02

Contrary to Regulation 78 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019, Managements of twelve (12) schools could not account for GH¢97,265.68 worth of fuel and other lubricants purchased.

The Auditor-General recommended that the Headmasters, Accountants and Transport Officers of the affected schools should refund the amount involved. The Committee noted that GH¢68,926.66 has been recovered leaving an amount of **GH¢28,339.02** in the name, Bolgatanga Nursing Training College and Keta Nurses and Midwifery Training Centre.

The committee recommends a refund of this amount from the management of the two colleges.

8.14. NON-DEDUCTION / NON -REMITTANCE OF TAX - GH¢85,561.90

Management of thirty-one (31) Institutions failed to withhold taxes on payments made for goods and services contrary to Section 116 of the Income Tax Act, 2015 (Act 896).

The Auditor-General recommended that the accountants of the institutions involved should pay the total amount to the Commissioner-General of the GRA and recover same from the payees in accordance with Section 117(5) of the Income Tax Act, 2015, (Act 896).

In a related development eighteen (18) schools in seven regions failed to remit withheld taxes to the GRA contrary section 117 of the Income Tax Act, 2015 (Act 896).

The Auditor-General recommended that, the Headmasters and Accountants of these institutions should recover the taxes from the suppliers and remit GH¢313,112 to the Ghana Revenue Authority to avoid penalty charges.

At the Public Hearing, it was noted that, GH¢227,550.10 representing 72.67% of the total infraction was remitted to GRA leaving an outstanding balance of **GH¢85,561.90** in the name of the following schools:

Table 10: Outstanding Tax Irregularities

Institution	Tax not Deducted (GH¢)	Tax not Remitted (GH¢)
Community Development School	0.00	861
Mampong Technical College of Education	0.00	5,896.56
St. Monicas College of Education, Mampong	0.00	22,860.25
Al-Farouq College of Education	3,112.50	3,517.91
Ghana National College		41,634.93
Dunkwa Nurses and Midwifery Training College	7,678.75	0.00
Total	10,791.25	74,770.65

The Committee urged the management of the institutions to remit the outstanding balance as recommended by the Auditor-General.

8.15. PAYMENTS WITHOUT VAT RECEIPTS/INVOICES

The Audit revealed that six schools from two regions paid total VAT of GH¢40,215.46 on procurement of goods and services without obtaining VAT invoices/receipts in contravention of section 41 of the VAT Act, 2013 (Act 870). The Auditor-General recommended to management of the affected schools to ensure that VAT invoices are obtained for VAT payments to ensure proper accountability of VAT revenues.

It was discovered at the Committee Sitting that an amount of GH¢8,459.88 out of the total amount of GH¢40,215.46 has been accounted for through the provision of receipts and invoices. However, an amount of GH¢31,755.58 remains outstanding in the name of the following institutions:

1.	Bodwesango Senior High School	-	GH¢4,395.61
2.	St. Patrick's Midwifery and Training School	-	GH¢20,668.05
3.	Volta School for the Deaf, Hohoe	-	GH¢1,643.87
4.	Keta Nurses and Midwifery College	-	GH¢1,163.23
5.	Unnamed School	-	GH¢3,884.82
	Total	-	<u>GH¢31,755.58</u>

8.16. OUTSTANDING TEXT BOOKS/ UNRETURNED TEXT BOOKS

The audit revealed that 4,360 staff and students from 19 schools in four regions failed to return 11,360 text books valued at GH¢358,183.00 to the various institutions. The Auditor-General tasked the heads of the schools to ensure the books are returned immediately to the schools, or the value of the books should be recovered from the defaulters, and further institute measures to ensure that all borrowed/issued books are returned at the stipulated time so as to avert recurrence of this anomaly.

8.17. DELAYED OR ABANDONED PROJECTS

The Audit disclosed that 79 GETFund projects and other special funded projects under construction in 37 institutions in eight regions had been delayed or abandoned for periods up to 14 years contrary to Section 7 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921). The Auditor-General recommended to management of the institutions to pursue the funding sources for the completion of the projects to ensure funds already spent on the projects are not wasted.

The Committee noted that the underlisted projects remain uncompleted:

Table 11: Outstanding uncompleted Projects

NO	NAME OF SCHOOL	PROJECTS DESCRIPTION
1	Adanwomase Senior High School	Classroom Block and a Dormitory
2	Agogo State College	Administration Block, 8 Units Girls' Dormitory, 12 Units Classroom Block and Staff Bungalow
3	Agona Senior High Technical	Two unspecified Project
4	Antoa Senior High School	Dormitory
5	Barekese Senior High School	Girls Dormitory
6	Ejuraman Anglican Senior High School, Ejuraman	12 Units Classroom Block and Girls Dormitory Project
7	Jacobu Senior High School	Dining Hall
8	Kofi Agyei Senior High Technical Sch.	Administration Block
9	Okomfo Anokye Senior High School, Wiamso	12 Units Classroom Block and Assembly Hall
10	St. Jerome Senior High School	Unspecified Project
11	St. Mary's Girls SHS	Unspecified Project
12	Wenchi Methodist SHS	Dining Hall, Kitchen Complex, Administration and Boys' Dormitory
13	Al-Faruq College of Education	Staff Offices and E-Library Block
14	Ghana National College	2 Storey Dormitory, 12 Unit Classroom Block and Assembly Hall
15	Holy Child School	73-acre fence wall
16	Ogua Senior High Technical School	Technical and Administration Blocks
17	Obrachire Senior High Technical School	2 Storey Girls Dormitory Block
18	Gambaga College of Education	Unspecified Project
19	Kalpohin Senior High School	2-Storey 12 Unit Classroom Block
20	Ghana Senior High School	Fence Wall and Security Centre

21	Bagabaga College of Education	Block Fence Wall
22	Bimbilla Senior High School	Dining Hall Project
23	T. I Ahmadiyya Senior High Senior	Dining Hall and Classrooms
24	Tuna Senior High School	Unspecified Project
25	Salaga Senior High School	Classroom Block
26	Queen of Peace Senior High Senior School	2 Storey Building Boys' Dormitory and Fencewall
27	Hilla Limann Senior High School	Fencewall
28	Methodist School for the Blind, Wa	Construction of Assembly Hall
29	Sefwi Wiawso Senior High Technical School	Two unspecified Projects
30	Sefwi Wiawso College of Education	2 Storey Girls' Dormitory and Science Laboratory
31	Awe Senior High School	Classroom, Science Laboratory and Dormitory
32	St. Joseph Seminary Senior High School, Mampong	One unspecified Project

Officials of the affected schools indicated that they had written severally to GETFund through GES as well as the Ministry of Education and yet the responses are not encouraging. The Committee was informed that officials from GETFUND had visited some institutions to access the state of the projects but the projects remained abandoned.

The Deputy Minister of Education informed the Committee that funds have been allocated for the completion of all abandoned projects in pre-university institutions. The Committee appealed to the minister to ensure that immediate steps are taken to complete the projects.

8.18. ABSENCE OF LAND TITLE DEEDS.

The Audit disclosed that two schools in two regions do not have Title Deeds for lands on which the schools are situated to secure the ownership of these lands. The audit recommended to management of the schools to ensure that Title Deeds are acquired to secure the schools' ownership of the lands.

At the time of the Committee sitting, it was observed that Nsawkaw State Senior High School and Simms Senior High School had commenced processes with the Lands Commission to acquire title deed for the school lands.

The Committee urged the management of these institutions to treat the infraction as urgent because lands are subject to larceny.

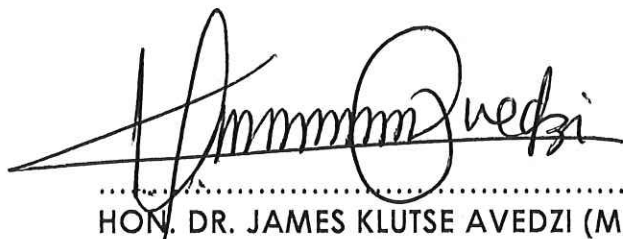
9.0. CONCLUSION

The Committee urges all Pre-Tertiary Educational Institutions to uphold and act in accordance with the Public Financial Management Regulations (PFMR) as well as Procurement laws of the Republic of Ghana.

The Committee recommends that management of the Pre-University Educational Institutions cited by the Auditor-General should implement all the recommendations in the Committee's report and submit status report to the Committee through the Auditor-General within six months after the adoption of this report.

The Committee was of the considered view that the observations and recommendations of the Auditor-General fairly represented the financial transactions that took place in the Pre-University Educational Institutions in the 2020 financial year. The Committee therefore recommends to the House to adopt its **Report on the Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana (Pre-University Educational Institutions) for the financial year ended 31 December 2020** in accordance with Order 165(3) of the Standing Orders of the House.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. DR. JAMES KLUTSE AVEDZI (MP)
CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE



.....
JOANA ABENA SAKYI ADJEI (MRS.)
CLERK, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

10th JULY, 2023

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GHANA (PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

LIST OF INSTITUTIONS WITH PROCUREMENT INFRACTIONS REFERRED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR PROSECUTION

1. Bodwesango Senior High School
2. Jachie Pramso Senior High School
3. Osei Tutu II College Tetrem Senior High School
4. Koase Senior High Schools
5. Edinaman Senior High School
6. Effutu Senior High Technical School
7. Assinman Nursing and Midwifery Training College
8. Asuansi Technical Institute
9. Fettehman Senior High School
10. Komenda College of Education
11. Ada Senior High School
12. Ada College of Education
13. Accra Academy
14. Accra College of Education
15. Daboya Community Day Senior High School
16. Ndewura Jakpa Senior High Schools
17. Kusanaba Senior High School
18. Jamiat Girls Senior High School
19. Piina Senior High School
20. T. I. Ahmadiyya
21. Islamic Senior High School
22. Volta School for the Deaf, Hohoe
23. Sovie CYO Vocational/Technical School
24. Abutia Senior High Technical School
25. Tanyigbe Senior High School