

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON
THE 2014 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December, 2013 to Parliament on Tuesday, 19th November, 2013 in accordance with article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Order 140(4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates of the Electoral Commission was referred to the Committee on Special Budget for consideration and report.

1.2 The Committee subsequently met with the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Kwadwo Afari Gyan and the two Deputy Chairmen of the Electoral Commission, Alhaji Amadu Sulley and Mrs. Georgina Opoku Amankwah, officials from the Commission and the Ministry of Finance and considered the Estimates.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Chairman of the Commission and his team for their inputs during the Committee's deliberations.

2.0 **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee referred to the following documents in the discharge of its duties:

- a. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana,
- b. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana,
- c. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 Financial Year,
- d. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year.

3.0 **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Electoral Commission has as its Mission, to advance the course of democracy and good governance for enhanced development of Ghana by institutionalising free, fair and transparent elections and referenda.

4.0 **THE MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT GOAL OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

The medium term development goal of the Commission is to become an institution adequately resourced, staffed with professionally trained and motivated personnel, totally independent in the performance of its functions and dedicated to efficient delivery of free, fair and transparent elections to advance the cause of democracy and good governance for sustainable development.

5.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The core functions of the Electoral Commission are to:

- i. compile the register of voters and revise it at such periods as may be determined by law;
- ii. demarcate the electoral boundaries for both national and local government election;
- iii. conduct and supervise all public elections and referenda;
- iv. educate the people on the electoral process and its purpose;
- v. undertake programmes for expansion of the registration of voters;
- vi. store properly election materials; and
- vii. perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law.

6.0 PERFORMANCE IN 2013

For the implementation of its programmes and activities in the 2013 financial year, an amount of **Twenty-One Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢21,228,757.00)** was allocated to the Electoral Commission. The Breakdown of the allocation

according to economic classification and actual releases as at September are shown in Table 1:

Table 1
2013 Approved Allocation as against Actual Releases
as at September

Item of Expenditure	Approved Allocation GH¢	Releases GH¢	Variance GH¢	%
Compensation	10,582,170	13,065,362	2,483,192	23
Goods and Services	8,843,487	33,249,583	24,406,096	276
Assets	1,803,100	6,381,039	4,577,939	254
Total	21,228,757	52,695,984	31,467,227	148

The above Table indicates that releases in respect of all the items of expenditure exceeded the approved budget for 2013.

7.0 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2013

1. In the year under review, the Electoral Commission successfully conducted three Bye-elections in Akatsi, Buem and Kumbungu.
2. The Commission also expanded and maintained its VSAT nationwide network to support the roll-out of continuous registration of voters.
3. In addition, the Commission began arrangements to engage stakeholders on improving the electoral process.

8.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2014

The 2014 budget proposal of the Electoral Commission was largely influenced by the National Medium Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) of the country. To this end, the Commission will pursue the following among others:

- a. re-demarcate electoral areas and Unit Committee boundaries;
- b. expand the Biometric Voters' Register to include persons who qualify to be registered;
- c. sensitise the public to increase awareness of the district level electoral process;
- d. conduct and supervise Assembly and Unit Committee Elections in all two hundred and sixteen (243) Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies; and
- e. inspect political party offices and audit political party accounts to enforce legal, operational and financial compliance for political organisation to enhance good governance.

9.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2014

- 9.1 Out of a budgetary requirement of **Three Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Four Ghana Cedis (GH¢327,179,894.00)** submitted by the Electoral Commission for 2014, an amount of **One Hundred and Forty-One Million, Eighty-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢141,082,137)**

has been allocated to the Commission for the implementation of its programmes. The breakdown of the amount is as follows:

Government of Ghana (GoG)	GH¢ 139,477,235.00
Development Partner Funds	<u>GH¢ 1,604,902.00</u>
Total	<u>GH¢ 141,082,137.00</u>

9.2 The planned programmes and sub-programmes to be pursued by the Commission in 2014 with its budgetary proposals are shown in Table 2:

Table 2

Breakdown of 2014 Programmes Budgetary Proposals of the Electoral Commission

Item		GH¢
Programme 1	Management & Administration	30,691,685.00
Sub-Programme 1:1	Finance	20,218,233.00
Sub-Programme 1:2	Human Resource & General Services	6,110,136.00
Sub-Programme 1:3	Information Technology	4,363,316.00
Programme 2	Electoral Services	296,488,209.00
Sub-Programme 2:1	Demarcation of Electoral Boundaries	5,123,579.00
Sub-Programme 2:2	Compilation of Voters Register	91,818,570.00
Sub-Programme 2:3	Conduct District Level Elections & Supervision	186,097,757.00*
Sub-Programme 2:4	Voter/Electoral Education	13,328,000.00
Sub-Programme 2:5	Verification, Registration Of PPs	120,000.00
T O T A L		327,179,894.00

10.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Over expenditure on 2013 Allocation

The Committee observed excessive overruns on all the expenditure items of the Commission in 2013. As at September 2013, releases by the Ministry of Finance to the Commission for Goods and Services were in excess of **276%** of the approved allocation whilst releases for Assets were also in excess of **254%** of the 2013 Allocation. Officials of the Commission informed the Committee that the overruns on expenditure on Goods and Services and Assets were due to the need to offset outstanding arrears for some 2012 elections activities.

With regard to the allocation for Employee Compensation, the Commission has as at September 2013 overspent its allocation by 23% due to unrealistic compensation ceiling imposed by the Ministry of Finance.

10.2 2014 Allocations

The Committee observed that of the GH¢327,179,894 (see APPENDIX 2) required by the Commission for 2014, only GH¢141,082,137 was allocated. The balance of GH¢186,097,575 required to conduct and supervise the District level elections and the expected referendum on the 1992 Constitution has not been allocated.

The Committee has extracted assurances from the Hon. Minister of Finance to release the relevant amount to the EC for the conduct of the district level elections in 2014. As a result, the Minister of

Finance has to find the additional amount of GH¢186,097,575 expeditiously to enable the EC conduct the impending elections without any hitches, as any delays may affect the program outline of the Commission. Accordingly, the Minister has assured the Committee that the amount will be taken from the General Government Service Vote as follows:

1. GH¢100,000,000 from Goods and Services component of the GOG within the General Service Vote
2. GH¢86,097,575 from Goods and Services component of the Development Partner Fund within the General Service Vote

10.3 Number of Polling Stations

The Committee observed that the EC has decided for a start to peg the maximum number of voters per polling station at 800. In view of that there will be about 35,000 polling stations opened for the District Level Elections (DLE) in 2014 as compared with the existing 26,200 stations used for the 2012 General Elections. The Electoral Commission also stated that to ensure compliance of **No Verification, No Vote (NVNV)** there would be two (2) Biometric Verification Devices (BVD) per polling station and a few more as back up for every electoral area.

10.4 Biometric Verification Devices (BVD)

The Committee noted that the implication of the above meant that a minimum of seventy thousand (70,000) BVD machines would be needed for the DLE in October 2014. **Since voting is expected to take place on 7th October 2014, these machines must be ordered and delivered latest by April 2014.**

10.5 Biometric Registration Kits (BRK)

The Committee observed that the EC need to acquire about a thousand (1,000) BRKs to augment the 7,000 already in place. This is to enable the Commission undertake continuous voter registration and periodic mass registration of voters. **Since the registration exercise is scheduled for April 2014, there is the need for these machines to be ordered and delivered by the end of January 2014.**

10.6 Warehouse Facilities for the Sensitive Biometric Verification Equipment and Kits

The Committee noted that many of the sensitive biometric verification equipment and kits which were procured for the 2012 general elections are in a deplorable state due to the absence of appropriate warehouse facilities. According to officials of the Commission, to reduce the number of damaged equipments that have to be repaired and replaced each election year, there is the need for the construction of appropriately-conditioned warehouses across the country to store the equipments.

The Committee further noted that the completion of a National Warehouse Complex has been factored in the 2014 budget of the Commission. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure that funding for this Project is released and on time in order to save the country from spending large sums of money in servicing, maintaining and replacing malfunctioning biometric verification equipment and kits each election year.

10.7 Training of Electoral Officers and Public Voter Education

The Committee observed that training of Electoral Officers and voter education are always rushed through few days before the conduct of elections. Interrogating the issue, officials of the Commission indicated that competent officers of the Commission are over stretched and engaged in several programmes at every point in time in election years. As a result, the situation leaves little time for the training of Electoral Officers and voter education.

The Commission however informed the Committee that recruitment and intensive training of Electoral Officers constitute a substantial share of the budget for the DLEs in 2014.

Inasmuch as the Electoral Commission has budgeted for the training of Electoral Officers in 2014, the Committee is of the opinion that for Electoral Officers to perform their assigned tasks creditably, there is the need for continuous training of such officers. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the Electoral Commission should have a Department specifically dedicated to the continuous training of Electoral Officers and public voter education programmes.

10.8 Amendment to the Constitutional Provision Establishing the Electoral Commission

The Committee noted that the budgetary requirements of the Electoral Commission are always reviewed downwards by the Ministry of Finance. Thus, in most election years, the Committee

has to make intervention for the Electoral Commission to be allocated additional funds for the conduct of elections.

The Committee is therefore of the opinion that to forestall the situation where budgetary requirements of the Electoral Commission are always reviewed downwards by the Ministry of Finance, the constitutional provisions establishing the Electoral Commission should be amended to afford the Commission the opportunity to present its budget proposals directly to His Excellency, the President who would submit it to Parliament with his recommendations if any. This in the view of the Committee will uphold the independence of the Electoral Commission and also grant it same status as institutions such as the Audit Service, the Judicial Service and Parliament.

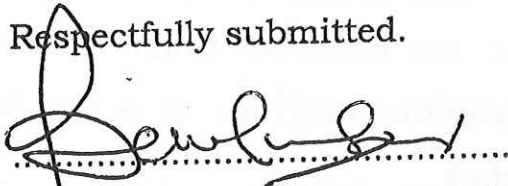
11.0 **CONCLUSION**

In the opinion of the Committee, the march towards the 2016 general Presidential and Parliamentary Elections has already begun. The successful conduct of the District Level Elections would therefore be a test case to establish how the directives and recommendations of the Supreme Court's rulings of the 2012 elections petition can be operationalised to determine the success of the 2016 general elections.

It is in this regard that the Committee requests the Hon. Minister for Finance to ensure that the additional budgetary requirement of **GH¢186,097,755** is released on time to the Electoral Commission to enable it commence in earnest preparations towards the District Level Elections as soon as possible.

The Committee recommends to the House for approval, the sum of **One Hundred and Forty-One Million, Eighty-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢141,082,137.00)** for the implementation of the planned programmes of the Electoral Commission for the 2014 Financial Year subject to the assurance that the **One Hundred and Eighty Six Million, Ninety Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢186,097,575)** will be provided as indicated in paragraph 10.2.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. BENJAMIN KUNBUOR (DR.)
(MAJORITY LEADER &
CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)**



**MRS. AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM
(CLERK, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)**

16TH DECEMBER 2013

ELECTORAL COMMISSION2014 BUDGET SUMMARY

1	PROGRAMME 1	MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	30,691,685.00
	SUB PROGRAMME 1:1	FINANCE	
	SUB PROGRAMME 1:2	HUMAN RESOURCE & GENERAL SERVICES	20,218,233.00
	SUB PROGRAMME 1:3	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	6,110,136.00
			4,363,316.00
2	PROGRAMME 2	ELECTORAL SERVICES	
	SUB PROGRAMME 2:1	DEMARCATON OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES	296,488,209.00
	SUB PROGRAMME 2:2	COMPILATION OF VOTERS REGISTER	5,123,570.00
	SUB PROGRAMME 2:3	CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND SUPERVISION	91,818,882.00
	SUB PROGRAMME 2:4	VOTER/ELECTORAL EDUCATION	186,097,757.00
	SUB PROGRAMME 2:5	VERIFICATION, REGISTRATION & GAZETTING OF POLITICAL P	13,328,000.00
	TOTAL BUDGET		120,000.00
			327,179,894.00

DISTRICT LEVEL ELECTIONS BUDGET
SUMMARY

1	<i>Planning Meeting and Coordination Meeting</i>	=	
	i) <i>National level</i>	=	80,860.00
	ii) <i>Regional Level</i>	=	248,498.00
	iii) <i>Coordination Meetings (Quarterly)</i>	=	143,400.00
2	<i>Recruitment and Training of Election Officials</i>		
	i) <i>Recruitment & Interview of Returning officers</i>	=	287,510.00
	ii) <i>Key Trainers Training</i>	=	101,520.00
	iii) <i>Training of Trainers (ROs)</i>	=	505,680.00
	iv) <i>Monitoring of TOT</i>	=	61,054.00
	v) <i>Grass Root Training</i>	=	15,329,106.00
	vi) <i>Monitoring and Grass room Training</i>	=	128,685.00
3	<i>Receipt of Nominations</i>	=	514,094.00
4	<i>Platform Monitoring</i>	=	3,979,124.00
5	<i>Conduct of Elections</i>	=	5,714,350.00
6	<i>Monitoring of Election</i>	=	391,821.00
7	<i>Gazetting of Election Results</i>	=	370,000.00
8	<i>Allowance for Election Officials</i>	=	21,285,780.00
9	<i>Post Election Review meetings(National)</i>	=	
	i) <i>National</i>	=	52,470.00
	ii) <i>Regional</i>	=	109,360.00
10	<i>Purchase of Elections Materials</i>	=	15,823,670.00
11	<i>Printing of Election Materials</i>	=	18,290,200.00
12	<i>Investment</i>	=	2,280,000.00
13	<i>Election Day Voter Verification</i>	=	100,400,575.00
			186,097,757.00