

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

*ON THE*

**2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES  
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year was presented to the House on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper in accordance with 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** The Committee subsequently met with the Hon. Minister for Education, Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang and her team on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and considered the referral.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister and her technical team for their co-operation.

**2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee made reference to the following documents during its deliberations:

- 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 2013 Financial Year
- IV. The 2014 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Education
- V. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 Financial Year

### **3.0 MISSION STATEMENT**

The Ministry exists to formulate and implement policies that would ensure quality and accessible education to all Ghanaians to meet the needs of the labour market, and equip of all Ghanaians with requisite skills to achieve human development, good health, poverty reduction, national integration and international recognition.

### **4.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

The policies and programmes of the Ministry are implemented by the following Departments and Agencies:

- I. Ghana Education Service (GES)
- II. National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE)
- III. Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schools (CENDLOS)
- IV. Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET)
- V. National Inspectorate Board (NIB)
- VI. National Service Scheme (NSS)
- VII. Ghana National Commission for UNESCO
- VIII. The West African Examinations Council (WAEC)
- IX. Ghana Library Authority (GLA)
- X. Ghana Book Development Council (GBDC)
- XI. Non-Formal Education Division (NFED)

### **5.0 PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2013**

A total amount of GH¢4,412,695,383.00 was approved for the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Education for the 2013 financial year.

During the year under review, the Ministry implemented, among others, the following:

- I. Distributed free school uniforms to 170,221 pupils in selected districts and schools

- II. Paid Capitation Grant to cover 5,741,198 pupils in all public basic schools
- III. Provided feeding grants for 6,023 pupils in special schools in each term of 2012/13 academic year
- IV. Distributed 32 million free exercise books to basic schools.
- V. Resourced nine implementing partners to provide Complimentary Basic Education (CBE) to 25,000 out-of-school children
- VI. Built and handed over, 43 6-unit classroom blocks, 74 3-seater KVIP toilet blocks and 8 3-unit Teacher accommodation
- VII. Supplied 12.5 million textbooks in English, Maths and Science to public basic schools
- VIII. Rolled out School Report Card (SRC) template and software in 57 deprived districts to collect data on teachers, enrolment and performance among other things

## **6.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2014**

The Ministry of Education has been allocated a total amount of **GH¢ 5,816,315,034.00** for its programmes for year 2014. The breakdown is as follows:

**GOG** - GH¢4,560,827,380.00

**ABFA** -GH¢103,510,325.00

**IGF** - GH¢ 951,854,210.00

**Development Partner (DP) Funds** - GH¢200,123,119.00

## **6.1 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1.1** The Committee was informed that the Ministry requested for an amount of GH¢6,966,523,590.00 for its programmes for year 2014 but was allocated an amount of GH¢5,816,315,034.00.00, creating a shortfall of GH¢1,150,208,556.00. The shortfall in the allocation may affect the effective implementation of some programmes of the Ministry.

In spite of the shortfall, the Ministry plans to undertake the following:

- I. Increase inclusive and equitable access to, and participation in education at all levels
- II. Improve teaching and learning of Science, Mathematics and Technology at all levels
- III. Improve the management of education service delivery
- IV. Improve the quality of teaching and learning at all levels
- V. Make education more relevant to national goals and aspirations with the focus on technical and vocational education
- VI. Provide and improve education infrastructure and facilities

**6.1.2** The Committee noted with concern the high rate of teacher absenteeism and the loss of instructional time (time on task) in public schools. It came to light that in some areas, teachers go to school only twice a week, and in some instances, teachers who go to school teach less than the expected number of hours. This situation undoubtedly contributes to poor learning outcomes.

The Committee was however happy to note that the Ministry intends to implement a policy of “Zero Tolerance for Absenteeism” where the Ghana Education Service and the Controller and Accountant General Department will ensure that teachers who unjustifiably absent themselves from school/work receive no pay.

**6.1.3** It also came to the attention of the Committee that 94% of the Ministry’s GOG allocation for year 2014 amounting to GH¢4,387,062,473.00 will be committed to the payment of compensation. This means that the Ministry will be left with only 6% of the GOG allocation to cater for programmes under goods and services and capital expenditure.

## **6.2 GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE (GES)**

**6.2.1** The GES has been allocated a sum of GH¢3,580,001,395.00 to implement its programmes and activities for the year 2014. This is made up of **GOG-** GH¢3,199,332,141.00; **ABFA** – GH¢1,630,000.00; **IGF** - GH¢300,657,070.00 and **Donor funds-**GH¢78,382,184.00

The GES intends to apply its allocation to the following activities among others:

- I. Improve management of education service delivery and provide timely and reliable data for policy making, planning, monitoring and evaluation
- II. Provide 19,926 pieces of school furniture (tables and chairs) for pupils and teachers
- III. Pay capitation grant for 5,651,342 basic school pupils
- IV. Provide scholarship packages for approximately 52,384 girls in JHS
- V. Construct 321 additional toilets/urinals for basic schools
- VI. Construct/rehabilitate 15 SHS and 4 TVET school buildings
- VII. Roll out Competency Based Training (CBT) for courses in Welding and Fabrication, Electrical, Automotive and Mechanical Engineering

**6.2.2** The Committee was informed about the lack of office/residential accommodation for staff of GES, especially in the newly created districts. However, the Committee observed that out of a total allocation of GH¢3,580,001,395.00 to GES, only GH¢30,979,966.00 representing 0.9% was committed to capital expenditure. This meagre amount will undoubtedly affect GES' ability to provide adequate infrastructure.

The Committee calls on all stakeholders, especially District Assemblies, to compliment the efforts of the Ministry in addressing this challenge.

**6.2.3** The Committee was informed that the pupil/textbook ratio in the three core subjects – English, Mathematics and Science at the basic level is now one (1) textbook per child. However, it came to light that in some schools,

just a few copies of the textbooks are given to the children to share while the bulk is kept in boxes.

The Committee calls on GES to ensure that head teachers make the textbooks available to pupils.

**6.2.4** The Committee noted that the Ministry's dependence on National Service Persons has increased over the years. For instance, for the 2012/2013 Service year, about 62% of the 80,000 National Service personnel were deployed to the education sector.

Whilst this serves as an interim measure in addressing the inadequate number of trained teachers especially in deprived areas, it is imperative that urgent measures are taken to train more teachers and retain them in the profession.

**6.2.5** The Committee expresses concern about the high concentration of trained teachers in the urban areas. Whereas there is oversupply of teachers in some areas, others do not have a single trained teacher.

The Committee strongly urges the GES to sustain the teacher rationalisation exercise and redeploy teachers from over-staffed districts to districts in need of more teachers. The Committee further urges the GES to fully implement the policy of posting newly trained teachers to deprived areas for at least two years to improve the quality of teaching in such areas.

**6.2.6** It came to the attention of the Committee that some Senior High Schools (SHS) are charging unapproved levies, resulting in high school fees and placing undue pressure on parents/guardians. As a result, innocent children whose parents/guardians do not have the ability to pay are denied access to secondary education.

The Committee was happy to note that the Ministry is taking steps to halt this development. It strongly recommends that the Ministry institutes

disciplinary action against head teachers who are found culpable to deter others from engaging in this practice.

### **6.3 CENTRE FOR NATIONAL DISTANCE LEARNING AND OPEN SCHOOLING (CENDLOS)**

**6.3.1** For year 2014, the Centre has been allocated an amount of GH¢955,151.00 comprising GH¢187,902.00 for Compensation, GH¢637,239.00 for Goods and Services, GH¢55,000.00 for Capital expenditure and GH¢75,010.00 for IGF.

**6.3.2** In pursuance of its objectives, CENDLOS will build capacity in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) material development, provide learner support services and ensure quality control in ODL delivery. The Centre will also develop e-learning platform for online classrooms and also operate a pilot Open School System to train 882 in-school and out-of-school youth, under privileged youth and prison inmates in employable skills in 13 Study Centres across the country.

The Committee was happy to note that in the 2012 November/December examinations, the prison centres recorded distinctions, credits and passes at various levels of NVTI examinations. The Committee was informed that some inmates who passed the BECE and qualified for SHS are still pursuing their education. In few instances, some inmates who acquired SHS education through the CEDLOS programme and subsequently left prison have found their way into tertiary institutions.

It is important to state that releases to the Centre were not regular in year 2013 and this to some extent affected its operations. For the Centre to perform effectively, it is essential that it is adequately resourced.

### **6.4 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (NCTE)**

**6.4.1** For year 2014, the NCTE has been provided with an amount of GH¢1,587,844,499.00 for its programmes. The allocation is made up of



**GOG-** GH¢937,144,018.00, **IGF** - GH¢640,704,079.00 and **Donor Funds** GH¢ 9,996,401.00

The Committee was informed that NCTE requested for an amount of GH¢237,160, 427.00 for Goods and Services, but was allocated a GOG component of GH¢12,000,000.00 which falls short of its requirement by 94%. The Committee was further informed that the NCTE was allocated an amount of GH¢1,770,000.00 for Capital Expenditure as against a requirement of GH¢1,198,665,758.00.

This situation will make it difficult for the tertiary institutions to carry out their operations and provide the needed infrastructural facilities.

## **6.5 NON-FORMAL EDUCATION DIVISION (NFED)**

**6.5.1** An amount of GH¢37,096,746.00 has been allocated to the Division for its programmes for year 2014.

In year 2014, the Division will, among others, apply its resources to:

- i. Conduct a literacy survey to ascertain the competences of a sampled population of Ghanaians
- ii. Finalise two (2) Easy-to-Read books in fifteen (15) Ghanaian languages
- iii. Support partner stations in the production and recording of radio programmes in target communities
- iv. Organise the Best Learner and Facilitator competition to assess the level of achievement of learners and facilitators

The Committee noted that the Division depends heavily on facilitators for its functional literacy programmes. However, there is a high turnover among these facilitators due to low motivation. The high turnover comes at a great cost to the Division since it spends money and time to train these facilitators. The Committee underscores the need for the Division to be adequately resourced to attract and retain facilitators.

## **6.6 COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (COTVET)**

**6.6.1** For 2013, COTVET was allocated a total amount of GH¢19,962,676.00 comprising a **GOG** amount of GH¢1,367,279.00 and a **Donor** component of GH¢18,595,397.00 for its programmes.

For year 2013, the Agency provided, among others, the following:

- i. Mechanical engineering (plant) tools and equipment to Koforidua, Ho, Cape Coast and Tamale Polytechnics
- ii. Tools and equipment to 10 selected formal Technical/Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions
- iii. Tools and Equipment to 100 beneficiary MMDAS for the training of 8,000 apprentices in all the 10 Regions to support the National Apprenticeship Programme in the informal sector

**6.6.2** An amount of GH¢101,738,602.00, made up of **GOG** - GH¢1,608,740.00, **ABFA**- GH¢3,780,000.00 **Donor Funds** - GH¢96,349,862.00 has been allocated to COTVET for its programmes for year 2014. This represents an increase of GH¢81,775,926.00 (80.4%) over last year's allocation. The increase in the total budgetary allocation is attributed to an increase in the Donor component by an amount of GH¢77,754,465.00 (80.7%)

**6.6.3** In year 2014, COTVET intends to utilise part of its allocation to train 8,000 JHS leavers in Cosmetology, ICT, Welding and Fabrication, Block laying and Concreting, Carpentry and Joinery and Garment Making under its National Apprenticeship Programme.

**6.6.4** As part of efforts to ensure quality delivery of Technical Vocation Education and Training (TVET), COTVET has developed an 8 level National TVET Qualification Framework (Proficiency 1 to a PHD in Technology)

indicating how the different levels of qualifications harmonises with the mainstream assessment and certification system.

COTVET is institutionalising a Competency Based Training approach where training is driven by industry needs.

The Committee support COTVET's bid to rebrand TVET to ensure quality delivery and training of a competitive workforce with the requisite skills to meet the demands of industry.

## **6.7 NATIONAL INSPECTORATE BOARD (NIB)**

**6.7.1** A total amount of GH¢1,121,138.00 has been allocated to the NIB for its programmes for year 2014.

**6.7.2** The Board plans to undertake effective supervision and inspection of 500 basic and 50 second cycle educational institutions towards achieving better learning outcomes.

**6.7.3** The Committee was informed that the Board will also print and distribute to schools, additional 20,000 copies of quality indicators for evaluating school performance. These indicators relate to four (4) key elements – the teacher, the classroom, the school and the learner. The Quality Indicators are expected to empower and support headteachers to undertake self-assessment of their schools.

**6.7.4** The Committee noted that the Board will continue with its flash/unannounced inspection visits to schools. These inspection visits focus on five (5) areas namely:

- i. Teacher absenteeism
- ii. Teacher preparedness
- iii. Availability and use of textbooks and other Learning and Teaching Materials (LTMs),
- iv. Assiduity of Circuit Supervisors
- v. Community participation

The Committee was happy to note that the data collated from the school inspection visits will be analysed and used to draw up evidence-based recommendations to improve teaching and learning in schools.

**6.7.5** The Committee observed that the Board depends on GETFund to deploy its numerous inspectors to schools. Unfortunately, for year 2013, the Board did not receive any release from its GETFund allocation of GH¢300,000.00. The Committee further observed that no releases were made for Assets, making it impossible for the Board to purchase vehicles for its monitoring exercises.

The Committee is of the view that school inspection and supervision is critical to effective teaching and learning, therefore the Board should be given the needed attention.

## **6.8 GHANA NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (GNSS)**

**6.8.1** For year 2014, an amount of GH¢349,332,464.00 has been provided for the programmes of the Scheme. This is made up of a **GOG** allocation of GH¢345,025,424.00 and an **IGF** component of GH¢4,307,040.00. The Scheme will continue to deploy Service persons into the Education, Local Government, Health and Agricultural Sectors, as well as the Private Sector.

**6.8.2** In line with its Youth in Agriculture Programme, the Scheme has set up agricultural projects in 8 regions to motivate the youth to go into agriculture. The projects involve maize production, fish farming, vegetable farming, animal husbandry, and poultry farming, among others.

To make agriculture attractive to the youth, the Committee finds it imperative for the Scheme to move from the traditional methods of farming and expose the youth to modern scientific and mechanised agricultural methods of farming that yield better results.

**6.8.3** The Committee was informed that in a bid to optimise its Internally Generated Funds (IGF), the Scheme plans to expand its operations to cover the production of mangoes and pineapples, among others.

The Committee is of the view that these products are perishable and unless the scheme is sure of a ready market, it should focus on the production of farm produce which may not easily perish.

Whilst commending the Scheme for the various initiatives to make it sustainable, the Committee also underscores the need to ensure that the investments are worthwhile. It therefore recommends that the Ministry of Education sets up a Committee to evaluate the investment portfolios of the Scheme to ensure viability and value for money.

**6.8.4** It was observed that in year 2013, the Scheme generated an amount of GH¢87,986.29 from drilling boreholes. For year 2014, the Scheme has estimated to generate a revenue of GH¢89,746.02 using its existing drilling rig. The Committee was informed that the Scheme plans to acquire a new drilling rig at a cost of GH¢2,500,000.00 and estimates to generate a revenue of GH¢900,000.00 in 2014 if it is able to acquire the new drilling rig.

## **6.9 GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

**6.9.1** An allocation of GH¢793,935.00 has been made to the Commission to undertake its programmes for year 2014. The Commission intends to apply its allocation to undertake the following activities among others:

- I. Launch the Global Monitoring Report on EFA
- II. Facilitate Ghana's participation in International Conference on Education and two other UNESCO meetings in specialised fields.
- III. Assist the National Bioethics Committee to organise activities for members and the public.

## **6.10 THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (WAEC)**

**6.10.1** A total amount of GH¢13,328,884.00 has been allocated to the Council for its programmes for the year.

**6.10.2** In year 2013, the approved examination fee for the BECE was GH¢33.00 including a government subsidy of GH¢23.10 per candidate. Thus each candidate paid an amount of GH¢9.90. The Committee noted that for year 2014, the approved examination fee for the BECE has been increased to GH¢50.00 representing an increase of 51.5%. Government is expected to subsidise the new fee with an amount of GH¢35.00 per candidate. Each candidate will therefore be required to pay an amount of GH¢15.00.

The Council informed the Committee that the increase in fees has been necessitated by the rising cost of the production of examination papers, hotel bills for officers who transport examination papers to various centres and an increase in the allowances paid to invigilators, supervisors and police escorts to retain their services.

While appreciating the justification for the increases by the Council, the Committee is concerned that some parents may not be able to pay their part of the fees and this may deny their wards the opportunity to sit for the exams.

## **6.11 GHANA LIBRARY AUTHORITY**

**6.11.1** The Authority has been allocated an amount of GH¢7,555,330.00 to execute its programmes for year 2014. The Committee was informed that the Authority requested for an amount of GH¢2,786,600.00 for goods and services but was given GH¢800,000.00. For Capital Expenditure, only GH¢80,000.00 out of a request of GH¢828,750.00 was approved.

**6.11.2** The Authority indicated that due to limited funding over the years, the operational areas of the Mobile Library Service have been redefined to cater for One (1) district and one (1) community (where a community

represents an area within the jurisdiction of an Assembly man or woman) instead of the original two (2) districts and three (3) communities within a region.

The Committee recognises that libraries serve as a backbone for any literacy programme. Thus failure to adequately resource the Authority will undermine the development of literacy in the country.

## **6.12 GHANA BOOK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**6.12.1** The Council requested for an amount of GH¢872,050.00 for its programmes for year 2014, but has been provided a sum of GH¢424,073.00.

The Council plans, among others, to utilise its allocation to organise/attend local and international book fairs, and seminars/workshops on “Quality Control in Printing” for the Associations within the Book Industry.

**6.12.2** The Council is mandated to stimulate and co-ordinate the publication and use of books in such a manner that they become effective tools of national development. However, the Committee observed that the Council was engaged in programmes which were unrelated to its core mandate.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Council realigns its programmes and focus on its core mandate to provide a national policy direction for the development of an indigenous and vibrant book industry that will provide the foundation for the creation of a functionally literate society.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**


The Committee observed that the total budgetary allocation of GH¢5,816,315,034.00 to the Ministry of Education increased by 31.8% over last year’s allocation of GH¢ 4,412,695,383.00. However, compensation for employees which is GH¢4,387,062,473.00 constitute as high as 75.4% of the total budgetary allocation, leaving only 24.6% to cater for Goods and Services, and Capital Expenditure. The inadequate allocation for Goods and

Services and Capital expenditure will affect among others, the expansion of infrastructure and the quality of teaching/learning.


In view of the significant role education plays in the socio-economic development of the nation, the Committee wishes to call on the Ministry of Finance to meet the budgetary requirements of the Ministry of Education to enable it achieve its objectives.

The Committee hereby recommends that an amount of **Five Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Million, Three Hundred and Fifteen Thousand and Thirty-four Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,816,315,034.00)** be approved for the Ministry of Education to implement its programmes for year 2014.

**Respectfully submitted**



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**HON. MATHIAS A. PUOZAA**  
**(CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE)**



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**MS JANET FRIMPONG**  
**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

*December 2014*