

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION**

ON THE

**2013 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 Financial Year to Parliament on Tuesday, 5th March 2013 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution. Pursuant to Order 140(4) 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 Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang and her technical team on Monday, 18th March 2013 and considered the referral.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and her technical team for their co-operation.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred 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 2012 Financial Year.
- iv. The 2012 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Education.
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2013 Financial Year.
- vi. Ghana Education Trust Fund Act, 2000 (Act 581)

- vii. Ghana National Service Scheme Act, 1980 (Act 426)
- viii. National Council for Tertiary Education Act, 1993 (Act 454)

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 accelerate the acquisition and equipping 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:

- a. Ghana Education Service (GES).
- b. National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE).
- c. Centre for Distance Learning and Open Schools (CENDLOS).
- d. Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET).
- e. National Inspectorate Board (NIB).
- f. National Service Scheme (NSS).
- g. Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.
- h. The West African Examinations Council (WAEC).
- i. Ghana Library Authority.
- j. Ghana Book Development Authority.

5.0 PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR 2012

A total amount of GH¢2,534,056,450.00 was approved for the programmes and activities of the Ministry for year 2012. However, at the end of December, actual expenditure stood at

GHC5,119,034,227.00 thereby creating an excess expenditure of GHC2,584,977,777.00.

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

1. Paid Capitation Grant for 5,467,808 pupils in all public basic schools for the second and third terms.
2. Provided free school uniforms to 1,600,000 pupils in deprived communities.
3. Distributed 28.4 million free exercise books to basic schools.
4. Distributed 53,555 laptop computers to over 2,000 basic schools.
5. Trained 25 trainer of trainers and 180 resource teachers for special education.
6. Trained 5,000 Junior High School (JHS) graduates under the National Apprenticeship Programme.
7. Established the University of Health and Allied Sciences and the University of Energy and Natural Resources in Ho and Sunyani respectively.
8. Rehabilitated and refurbished 30 Resource Centres in selected Senior High Schools across the country.

6.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2013

The Ministry of Education has been allocated a total amount of **Four Billion, Four Hundred and Twelve Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Three Cedis (GHC4,412,695,383.00)** for its programmes and activities for year 2013. The breakdown is as follows:

	GHC
Government of Ghana (GOG)	2,744,157,089.00

Social Intervention Programmes (SIP)	201,697,413.00
Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA)	10,000,000.00
Internally Generated Fund (IGF)	680,956,470.00
Donor Fund	84,427,211.00
GETFund	691,457,200.00

7.0 **OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 Total Budgetary Allocation

To implement its programmes and activities for year 2013, the Ministry requested for an amount of GH¢6,966,523,590.00 but was allocated an amount of GH¢4,412,695,383.00, thus creating a shortfall of GH¢2,283,828,207.00. The shortfall in the allocation may impact negatively on the programmes and activities of the Ministry for the year. This notwithstanding, the Ministry will continue to focus on the following:

- i. Increase equitable access to education.
- ii. Increase quality of teaching and learning.
- ii. Bridge the gender gap in access to education.
- iii. Increase access for pupils with disability.
- iv. Improve management of education.

7.2 Ghana Education Service (GES)

The Ghana Education Service (GES) is responsible for the implementation of pre-tertiary educational policies of the government to ensure that all Ghanaian children of school-going age are provided with quality formal education.

7.2.1 For 2013, the GES has been allocated an amount of GH¢2,574.20m comprising GoG- GH¢2,069.97m; Donor - GH¢65.83m, SIP -GH¢142.70m and IGF -GH¢295.74m.

The GES intends to utilise its allocation as follows:

- i. implement its Complimentary Basic Education Programme to bring 40,000 of the 120,000 out-of-school children into mainstream education;
- iii. provide 99 classrooms and 45 school toilet facilities;
- iv. strengthen guidance and counselling system in all schools; and
- v. roll out Competency Based Training (CBT) in 5 additional Technical/Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

7.2.2 The Committee noted with concern the high attrition rate of teachers within the GES. Attracting and retaining qualified teachers in deprived areas continues to be a major challenge.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Education should find a lasting solution to this problem. It also urges the GES to collaborate with District Assemblies to create the enabling environment that would attract and retain teachers in their Districts.

7.2.3 Inadequate ICT infrastructure in schools and offices as well as limited funding for teaching and learning materials and equipment also remain a challenge. The Committee was informed that the GES is collaborating with the Ministry of Education to seek alternative sources of funding to provide infrastructure and teaching and learning materials. The Committee considers this a step in the right direction.

7.2.4 The Committee observed that Act 581 mandates the GETFund to facilitate the provision of infrastructure at the tertiary level. The committee therefore proposes that Act 581 be amended to incorporate the provision of infrastructure at the basic level.

7.2.5 Colleges of Education have been given a quota of 9,000 students thereby restricting intake into these colleges. Ironically, the

recruitment of teachers at the basic level currently depends heavily on National Service persons and volunteers. In view of the importance of having qualified teachers at the basic level, the Committee urges the GES to expedite action on the process of reviewing upwards the quota for enrolment into Colleges of Education.

7.3 National Council for Tertiary Education

The National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) is the supervisory and regulatory body that advises the Minister on policy relating to tertiary education.

7.3.1 For year 2013, the NCTE requested for a budgetary allocation of GH¢1, 852,440,128.00 but has been provided an amount of GH¢870, 470, 848.00 for its programmes and activities. The allocation for compensation is GH¢471,861,824.00 as against a budgetary requirement of GH¢755,354,157.00 As a result of this funding gap, salaries can only be paid up to the end of the 3rd Quarter.

7.3.2 The low budgetary allocation to the Council implies that tertiary education will be confronted with difficulties such as maintenance of buildings, acquisition of teaching and learning materials, and improvement of academic facilities to cope with the increasing students' intake.

7.3.3 The need to review the NCTE Act, 1993 (Act 454) to reflect the increasing number of tertiary institutions in the country cannot be overemphasised. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry to speed up the process of reviewing the Act.

7.3.4 The Committee noted varied differences in what constitutes the IGF of the various institutions and recommends that the Ministry of Education should ensure that IGF is streamlined to engender transparency and accountability.

7.4 Centre for National Distance Learning and Open School (CENDLOS)

7.4.1 For year 2013, the GOG allocation to the Centre is GH¢572,600.00 comprising GH¢172,600.00 for Compensation and GH¢400,000.00 for Goods and Services. No amount was allocated for Assets.

7.4.2 In line with CENDLOS's objective of providing access to education for out-of-school youth and adults who for a variety of reasons miss the formal education, it has opened (13) Pilot Study Centres, eight (8) in the Prisons and five (5) outside the Prisons. The Committee was informed that 422 prison inmates are currently enrolled in JHS, SHS and TVET programmes in 8 CENDLOS Study Centres across the country. It is worth mentioning that 24 prison inmates of the Nsawam and Kumasi Prison Study Centres sat for the 2012 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and scored a 100% pass.

7.4.3 The operations of CENDLOS underscore the need for an Act to regulate and harmonise distance learning in Ghana. The Committee was informed that some private institutions have begun rolling out distance education programmes and this requires the urgent need for a legal framework.

The Committee therefore urges the Ministry to prepare and present to Parliament for its consideration and approval, a bill to regulate the operations of distance learning in the country.

7.5 Non-Formal Education Division (NFED)

The NFED exists to provide non-formal education to all Ghanaians, especially women and the rural poor aged 15 years and above.

7.5.1 For year 2013, an amount of GH¢21,121,540.00 has been allocated to the Division. The Division plans to develop a curriculum

and learning materials, recruit facilitators and enrol 50,000 learners in its various literacy programmes.

The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release funds allocated to the Division on time for the smooth delivery of its programmes.

7.6 Council For Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET)

COTVET has the responsibility to co-ordinate and oversee a TVET system that produces a globally competitive workforce through quality oriented demand driven learning for national development.

7.6.1 An amount of GH¢19,962,676.00 has been allocated to COTVET for its activities for the year as against a total budgetary requirement of GH¢80,949,028.00, thus creating a huge funding gap of GH¢60,986,352.00. Nevertheless, COTVET plans, among others to, continue with the National Apprenticeship Programme for JHS leavers. This year, 8,000 JHS leavers have been targeted to be trained.

Consequently, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should ensure the timely release of funds to enable COTVET implement the apprenticeship programme.

7.7 National Inspectorate Board (NIB)

The National Inspectorate Board (NIB) is an Agency set up under the Ministry to provide independent external evaluation of the quality of teaching/learning and standards in both public and private pre-tertiary educational institutions.

7.7.1 A total amount of GH¢917,929.00 has been allocated to the NIB for its programmes and activities for the year. The Board plans to embark on unannounced inspection visits to schools in the various

Regions, prepare and publish reports on the state of basic education in the country and organise training workshops for lead inspectors. The Board is however confronted with the challenge of inadequate resources to conduct the core business of school inspection.

The Committee views the role of the NIB as crucial and therefore recommends that NIB is adequately resourced to enable it pursue its mandate.

7.8 Ghana National Service Scheme (GNSS)

The Ghana National Service Scheme (GNSS) is mandated by Act 426 to deploy Ghanaian citizens 18 years and above to undertake a one-year mandatory National Service in areas such as agriculture, education, health, rural development and local government. Currently, the Scheme deploys graduates from the 57 accredited tertiary institutions.

7.8.1 This year, an amount of GH¢146,266,100.00 has been provided for the programmes and activities of the Scheme.

7.8.2 In line with the government's agricultural sector initiative of motivating the youth to accept agriculture as a commercial venture, the Scheme has established agricultural projects in 7 Regions. Currently, about three thousand (3,000) personnel engaged in these projects are being equipped with the requisite training in agricultural entrepreneurship and modern farm management.

7.8.3 The Committee commends the Scheme for securing a grant equivalent to \$3 million from the Export Development and Agricultural Investment Fund (EDAIF) to support graduate employment and agricultural productivity.

7.9 Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO is a sub-vented Agency under the Ministry that serve as a link between UNESCO and Ghana. The Commission's mandate is to promote UNESCO's objectives and ideals in Ghana as a contribution to global peace, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and inter-cultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

7.9.1 For year 2013, an amount of GH¢414,965.00 has been allocated to the Commission for its activities. The Commission intends to apply its allocation to undertake the following activities among others:

- a. Strengthen the National Co-ordinating Committee on Education For All (EFA).
- b. Distribute science equipment (e.g telescopes).
- c. Distribute computers to needy districts.

7.9.2 The Committee was informed that Ghana's financial commitment to UNESCO has increased following the reassessment of Ghana's status as a Lower Middle Income Country.

The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to provide the additional amount to enable the Commission meet its financial obligation to UNESCO.

7.10 The West African Examinations Council (WAEC)

7.10.1 A total amount of GH¢16,736,846.00 has been allocated to the Council for its programmes for this year. The Committee noted a persistent funding gap in allocations to the Council. For instance, only GH¢221,000.00 was allocated out of an amount of GH¢6,643,160.60 requested for Goods and Services for this year. Other challenges facing the Council include threats on the lives of officers and inspectors deployed to WAEC examination centres and community participation in mass cheating. To address the problem of mass

cheating, the Council intends to use biometric machines to capture the finger prints of candidates for verification. The Council is also considering using metal detectors to detect mobile phones that are often smuggled into examination halls for cheating.

In view of the importance of the above activities, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance provides additional resources for the Council.

7.10.2 The Committee commends government for the timely release of the 2012 BECE subsidies to WAEC and hope this will continue in subsequent years.

7.11 Ghana Library Authority

The Ghana Library Authority is mandated to provide a comprehensive and accessible public library service to promote lifelong reading habits among the populace. The objective is to ensure the development of the individual's social and intellectual capabilities and the creation of a well-informed society for national development.

7.11.1 The Authority has been allocated an amount of GH¢4,967,510.00 to carry out the following activities, among others:

- i. Acquire computers and accessories, library furniture and equipment.
- ii. Organise promotional activities such as books clubs, quiz and essay competition and storytelling in all regional libraries.
- iii. Maintain the existing collaboration with the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) and other collaborators to support the operation of the mobile library service and other programmes.

7.11.2 Due to inadequate funding, the operational areas of the Mobile Library Service have been redefined to cover one (1) district and one (1)

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

7.12 Ghana Book Development Council

The Ghana Book Development Council has the responsibility to stimulate and co-ordinate the publication and use of books in such a manner that they become effective tools of national development.

7.12.1 Although the Council requested for an amount of GH¢555,000.00 for its activities for the year, it has been provided a sum of GH¢148,707.00

7.12.2 The Committee observed that over the years, there have been perennial cuts in the budgets of institutions like the Ghana Book Development Council. With such shortfalls in the budget allocation, the Council faces difficulties in implementing its programmes and activities.

The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to adequately resource such less endowed institutions to enable them play their roles effectively.

8.0 **CONCLUSION**

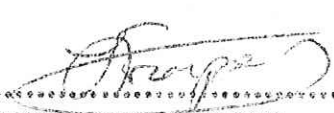
The Committee observed that the overall allocation to the Ministry of Education increased by 53.7% over last year's allocation. However, compensation for employees constitutes about 72.6% of the total budgetary allocation. It is also important to note that there has been a general decline in the allocation for Assets to the Ministry; a situation that could affect infrastructure development and the quality of output, particularly at the basic level.

Considering the pivotal role of education in the socio-economic development of the nation, there is the need for Government to pay more attention to the sector.

The Committee therefore recommends that an amount of **Four Billion, Four Hundred and Twelve Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-three Cedis (GH¢4, 412,695,383.00)** be approved for the Ministry of Education to implement its programmes and activities for year 2013.

Respectfully submitted.


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


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JANET FRIMPONG
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

22nd MARCH 2013