

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

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

*ON THE*

**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES BILL, 2016**

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# **REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES BILL, 2016**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Technical Universities Bill, 2016 was laid in Parliament on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Pursuant to article 106 (4) and (5) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140(4) and 186 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Education for consideration and report.

1.2 During the consideration of the Bill, the Committee was assisted by the two Deputy Ministers of Education, Hon. Alex Kyeremeh and Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, officials from the Ministry, as well as officers from the Attorney General's Department. The Committee is grateful for their support.

## **2.0 REFERENCE**

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

- a. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- b. The Standing Orders of Parliament.
- c. The University of Ghana Act, 2010 (Act 806).
- d. The University of Health and Allied Sciences Act, 2011 (Act 828).
- e. The University of Energy and Natural Resources Act, 2011 (Act 830).

- f. Report of the Technical Committee on the Conversion of the Polytechnics in Ghana to Technical Universities.

### **3.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL**

The Bill seeks to establish Technical Universities by converting existing polytechnics to Technical Universities to provide higher education with emphasis on science and technology oriented disciplines, technical and vocational education and training, as well as applied arts and related disciplines.

### **4.0 CONTENT OF THE BILL**

The Bill comprises 40 clauses arranged into four main parts:

Section 1 of the Bill (Clause 1-4) covers the establishment of the Technical Universities

Section 2 (clause 5-30) is dedicated to Administrative Provisions

Section 3 of the Bill (clause 31-35) relates to financial Provisions

Section 4 (Clauses 36 – 40) also focuses on Miscellaneous Provision.

### **5.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1** Technical Universities, as higher education learning institutions, will be dedicated to the development of high level technical skills, with a clear route for academic and professional progression of graduates from senior high schools, technical institutes and persons willing to upgrade their technical and business skills. The Committee noted that this will provide opportunities for such category of students and

others, who hitherto, had limited opportunities to pursue higher education in the Traditional Universities, acquire degrees and other qualifications relating to their field of study. The Technical Universities concept will undoubtedly enhance the image of the converted polytechnics as vocationally-oriented and industry-focused universities and thus improve the attractiveness of technical and vocational education and training.

However, it is imperative to institute measures to ensure that Technical Universities do not fall into the trap of offering pure academic programmes. Available statistics show that over 60% of polytechnics students are enrolled in business and management programmes, in spite of the fact that the majority of programmes should relate to the field of science and technology.

The Committee therefore urges the National Council for Tertiary Education to ensure that Technical Universities stay focused on their mandate of training highly skilled technical and vocational human resource.

**5.2** Strong collaboration with industry in education delivery is one of the key features that distinguish Technical Universities from the traditional ones. The Committee was happy to note that the Technical Universities concept is underpinned by a strong linkage between technical/vocational education and industry to provide holistic technical/vocational education and training.

In pursuit of this objective, it is considered essential that academic staff of Technical Universities, in addition to possessing the relevant

academic qualifications, have a rich professional or industry experience. This therefore calls for the need for Technical Universities to provide opportunities for academic staff to build their professional competences.

**5.3** The Committee further noted that the success of the Technical Universities Concept, to a large extent, depends on the quality and number of students that turn out from the Technical and Senior High Secondary Schools. In the light of this, the Committee underscores the need to make teaching/learning of technical and science programmes more attractive to students at the basic and secondary levels to ensure a continuous supply of students with technical and science background to the Technical Universities.

**5.4** It came to the attention of the Committee that for a polytechnic to qualify for conversion to a Technical University, it has to meet a set of eligibility criteria aimed at raising its status to the level of public universities in the country. This set of criteria hinges on three key pillars namely:

- (i) institutional standing;
- (ii.) academic staff requirements; and
- (iii.) evidence of collaboration with industry and employers in the delivery of accredited programmes.

The Committee noted that the 6 polytechnics (Accra Polytechnic, Ho Polytechnic, Koforidua Polytechnic, Kumasi Polytechnic, Sunyani Polytechnic and Takoradi Polytechnic) earmarked for conversion to Technical Universities have met the eligibility criteria. It came to the

attention of the Committee that the government is committed to ensuring that the four remaining polytechnics are encouraged and supported to meet the conversion requirement.

**5.5** The issue of appropriate designation for the Head of a Technical University came up strongly during the Committee's deliberations. The Committee was of the view that since almost all heads of traditional public universities are referred to as "Vice Chancellors," it is appropriate to adopt the same title for the heads of Technical Universities. This, the Committee observed, was fundamental to rebranding and improving public image about Technical Universities, and putting them on a parity of esteem with the traditional public universities.

However, the Ministry strongly opined that the title "Rector" should be maintained as a mark of differentiation between Traditional Universities and Technical Universities which have their orientation largely grounded on vocational skills development and the application of science and technology. In this regard, it is important to maintain the nomenclature "Rector" to give Technical Universities this unique identity.

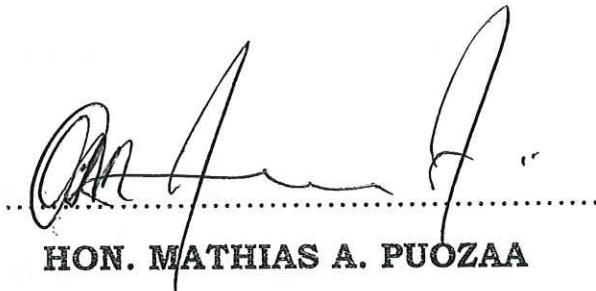
## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

The establishment of Technical Universities will redirect the focus of education more towards vocational skills development and applied science/technology, which are very critical for national development. Technical Universities will provide the avenue for students or professionals with the desire to build their skills and competencies

obtain degrees and other qualifications in disciplines which are not offered in the traditional universities. This will undoubtedly make the study of applied science and vocational education and training more attractive.

In the light of this, the Committee recommends that the House adopts the Report of the Select Committee on Education on the Technical Universities Bill, 2016.

Respectfully submitted



**HON. MATHIAS A. PUOZAA**  
**CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**



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

*July 2016*

## PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS

**Clause 1** - Amendment proposed - Headnote, delete "technical universities" and insert "Technical Universities", and unless the context otherwise requires, do same wherever applicable in the Bill.

**Clause 2**- Amendment proposed - add the following new section

"a polytechnic specified in part 2 of the First Schedule, Shall meet the requirements set out in the Second Schedule for conversion to a Technical University.

**Clause 2** - Amendment proposed - add the following new sub-clause:

3. "The Council of a polytechnic that intends to be converted to a Technical University shall apply in writing to the Minister through the National Council for Tertiary Education"

**Clause 3** - Amendment proposed - sub-clause (1), line 4, after "disciplines" insert "as the Council of that Technical University may, in consultation with the National Council for Tertiary, Education determine"

**Clause 3** - Amendment proposed - sub-clause (1), paragraph (d) line 3, after "the" insert "design and"



**Clause 3** - Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), paragraph (f) line 1, after “for”, insert “technical and professional”

**Clause 3** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (2), line 2, after “have”, delete “schools, departments, faculties and centres” and insert “schools, faculties, institutes, departments and centres”

**Clause 4** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), paragraph (a), line 1, after “degrees” insert “including honorary degrees”

**Clause 4** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), paragraph (b), sub-paragraph (iii), line 2, delete “Tertiary examinations” and insert “Professional and Technician examinations”

**Clause 5** - Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), paragraph (b), delete “Rector” and insert “Vice Chancellor”, and unless the context otherwise requires, do same wherever applicable in the Bill.

**Clause 5** - Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), paragraph (c), delete “four” and insert “three”

**Clause 5** - Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), paragraph (h), delete and insert the “two representatives of the Convocation elected by the Convocation, one of whom is a non-teaching staff”

**Clause 5** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), add the following paragraph

(o) “one representative of the Ghana Employers Association”

**Clause 5** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1) add the following new paragraph

(p) “one representative of the Association of Principals of Technical Institutes”

**Clause 6** – Amendment proposed – paragraph (e), after “promote” insert “applied research including”

**Clause 6** – Amendment proposed – paragraph (l) delete and insert “be responsible for discipline in the Technical University”

**Clause 6** – Amendment proposed – paragraph (m), delete “; and”

**Clause 6** – Amendment proposed – add the following new paragraph after (m)

“ensure that the academic staff have relevant industry experience; and”

**Clause 7** – Amendment proposed – add the following new sub-clause:

(2) “A committee of the Council comprising both members and non-members shall be chaired by a member of the Council”

**Clause 8** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (2), line 1, after “Council” insert “other than the Vice Chancellor”

**Clause 9** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (6), delete “Vice Rector” and insert “Pro Vice Chancellor”, and unless the context otherwise requires, do same wherever applicable in the Bill.

**Clause 16** – Amendment proposed - sub-clause (1), line 2, after “Council”, insert “in accordance with the statutes of a Technical University”

**Clause 16** - Amendment proposed - add the following new sub-clause after (6)

(7) The Council shall, in making the appointment under sub-clause (1) take into consideration industry experience”

**Clause 19** - Amendment proposed - paragraph (c), sub-paragraph (ii), after “degrees” insert “diplomas, certificates and other qualifications”

**Clause 20** - Amendment proposed - sub-clause (1) paragraph (d), delete and insert “Directors of Schools, Faculties, Institutes, Departments and Centres.

Amendment proposed - add the following new clause after clause 21:

**Director of Finance**

(1)“The Council shall appoint a Director of Finance for the Technical University”

(2) “The Director of Finance shall perform such functions as prescribed in the Statutes”

(3) “The Director of Finance is responsible to the Vice Chancellor in the performance of the functions of the Director of Finance

**Clause 23** - Amendment proposed -sub-clause (1), paragraph (a), lines 2 and 3, after “division”, delete “Faculties, Schools, Centres, Departments, Institutes, and hostels of that technical university” and insert, “Schools, Faculties, Institutes, Departments, Centres and hostels of that Technical University”

**Clause 31** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (3), lines 1 and 2, delete “school, centre or institute and insert “school, faculty, institute, department, centre or any other unit”

**Clause 34** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (1), line 2, after “Minister” insert “through the National Council for Tertiary Education”

**Clause 34** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (2), lines 3 and 4, delete “Auditor-General” and insert “Annual Account”

**Clause 38** – Amendment proposed – sub-clause (7), paragraph (c), delete

**Clause 40** – Amendment proposed – Convocation, line 3, delete “or the Academic Board”

**Clause 41** – Amendment proposed – second occurrence of sub-clause 4

**Clause 41** - Amendment proposed – second occurrence of sub-clause 5

**Clause 41** – Amendment proposed – second occurrence of sub-clause 5, line 1, after “shall” delete “be guided in its operation by” and insert “in its operations enter into partnership with”

**First Schedule** – Amendment proposed, add the following:

Part 2

(Section 2(1))

Polytechnics to be converted

1. Bolgatanga Polytechnic
2. Cape Coast Polytechnic
3. Tamale Polytechnic
4. Wa Polytechnic