

**IN THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTH  
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

*ON THE*

**CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA  
(REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)  
AND ITEC GLOBAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR  
AN AMOUNT OF SEVENTY-SIX MILLION, NINE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED  
AND SIXTY-TWO POUNDS AND FIFTEEN PENCE  
(£76,920,562.15) FOR THE SUPPLY AND  
INSTALLATION OF EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND  
TRAINING IN BASIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION  
(BSTEM)**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Education) and Itec Global of the United Kingdom for an amount of Seventy-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Two Pounds and Fifteen Pence (£76,920,562.15) for the Supply and Installation of Educational Equipment and Training in Basic Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education (BSTEM) was laid in Parliament by the Hon Minister for Education, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 pursuant to Article 181(5) of the 1992 Constitution and Section 33 (1) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016, (Act 921).

Subsequently, the Hon. First Deputy Speaker referred the Agreement to the Committee on Education for consideration and report. This was in accordance with Order 186 of the Standing Orders of the House.

## 2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Hon Minister for Education, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, and officials of the Ministry of Education attended upon the Committee to assist in its deliberations.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and his technical team for attending upon the Committee.

## 3.0 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 Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

#### 4.0 **BACKGROUND**

The Government of Ghana, has over the years endeavoured to expand access to basic education for all children through the commitments of programmes such as the Education for All, and the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE). Some significant progress has been made with enrolments increasing substantially through the introduction of the Capitation Grant, School Feeding, Free School Uniform and the Free Text and Exercise Books programmes. The 2012 Educational Sector Review Report supports this assertion by indicating that actual enrolment expenditure has increased.

In spite of the increased enrolment, the quality of education in basic schools continues to be of grave concern to the Ministry of Education and the country as a whole. The education sector is still confronted with several challenges in terms of performance and learning outcomes. For instance, results of Early Grade Reading Assessment between 2013 and 2015 indicate that just 2% of Primary 2 pupils were able to read at an appropriate grade level. The 2015 Early Grade Mathematics Assessment also indicates that higher order mathematical concepts were a challenge. 75% of Primary 2 pupils were unable to answer a single conceptual knowledge subtask (word problem) correctly. At the secondary level, learning outcomes are also low. Only 33% of students passed the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in mathematics in 2017.

Additionally, about 50% of teachers in basic schools still remain untrained and therefore have some difficulties in bringing about effective learning in BSTEM. Exacerbating the problem is the lack of a strategic approach to science and mathematics education as well as poor facilities in general.

It is against this background and in line with Government's commitment to ensure the development of a healthy, knowledgeable,

well-trained and disciplined labour force with the capacity to drive and sustain private sector-led growth in the country that the Government of Ghana (GoG) entered into a Contract Agreement with Itec Global of the United Kingdom for the Supply and Installation of Education Equipment and Training in BSTEM.

## 5.0 **KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

The main objective of the Project is to ensure the delivery and installation of educational BSTEM equipment as well as training to improve the quality of science and mathematics education within the Basic Education System in the country and in addition, to introduce basic engineering and technology into basic education . The specific objectives of the Project are as follows:

- i. Improving the pedagogy of teaching of science and maths education of all basic education.
- ii. Introducing engineering and technology education and effective pedagogy into the basic education curriculum.
- iii. Increasing the accessibility of modern teaching methods within BSTEM education to all students and teachers.
- iv. Addressing the fear of teaching and learning mathematics at the basic education level.
- v. Introducing an investigative and inquiry-based approach to BSTEM teaching, in line with international best practice in the Ghanaian curriculum.
- vi. Providing a kit of effective BSTEM equipment matched to the curriculum at each educational level.
- vii. Ensuring that the Project supports the Ministry of Education's other programmes to improve the teaching of BSTEM such as Transforming Teacher Education and Learning (T-TEL) and Girls Participatory Approaches to Students Success (G-PASS).
- viii. Providing resources including open education resources to support and enhance the current textbooks in BSTEM.

- ix. Promoting the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in an increasingly technological world.
- x. Equipping teachers with the skills to support students with Special Educational Needs.
- xi. Providing ICT equipment to improve the competency of both teachers and students at JHS level.
- xii. Introducing basic programming to JHS teachers and students to increase the understanding of current and future technology.

## 6.0 **SCOPE AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT**

The scope of work of the Project involves the supply and installation of educational equipment. Specifically, the Project seeks to:

- Provide all 38,715 Junior High Schools (JHSs), Primary Schools and Kindergarten Schools with science and mathematics equipment.
- Train 19,810 teachers (9,905 science and 9,905 mathematics teachers), 14,665 primary teachers and 14,145 Kindergarten teachers within the basic education curriculum.

## 7.0 **PROJECT COST**

- i. The original price of the Project was estimated at £80 million. However, the Ministry of Education obtained a discount of 5% after the Project was renegotiated.
- ii. The approved project sum amounts to Seventy-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Two Pounds, Fifteen Pence (£76,920,562.15) after the discount.

## 8.0 **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

The Project is anticipated to take five (5) years to complete, commencing from the date the Contract is signed. This would be implemented in three (3) phases with each phase spanning over a period of eighteen (18) months.

## 9.0 **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The Project implementation plan is as follows:

- Introduction of the STEM infrastructure (development of two (2) National STEM Centres – one in the South and one in the North of the country.
- Expansion of STEM infrastructure in ten (10) Regional BSTEM offices.
- Provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and STEM equipment.
- Training of JHS teachers.
- Development of primary STEM training Trainer Guide and Teacher Activity Book.
- Regional Advisors Training (30 candidates) for primary school level.
- Provision of STEM equipment to primary schools.
- Training primary school teachers.

## 9.0 **OBSERVATIONS**

### 9.1 Project Management

The Committee was informed that prior to the commencement of the Project, the Supplier would make available to the Ministry of Education, the recommended specifications for refurbishment of the BSTEM

Centre. Throughout the contract period, the Supplier would assume responsibility for the purchase, supply, shipment, clearance and delivery of equipment to the BSTEM in addition to all teaching and computer equipment as contained in the Project.

The Supplier would also manage the curriculum development, curriculum resources and training as well as all pre and post project advice, monitoring and the evaluation of the Project.

The Committee urges the Project Implementation Team comprising Itec Global, the Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service, Supervision Consultants and the Project Manager to ensure that the Supplier adheres to the terms of the Contract.

## 9.2 BSTEM Pilot Project

The Committee took notice that prior to the initiation of the BSTEM Programme, Itec Global, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, conducted a pilot project in early 2018 involving 100 JHSs. The objectives of the Pilot Projects were to:

- a. create a team of 25 Science and Mathematics Regional Advisors
- b. provide STEM equipment to 100 selected JHSs.
- c. Ensure that the 25 Science and Mathematics Regional Advisors deliver in-service training to 100 JHS science teachers from the selected schools.

According to the Ministry of Education, the Pilot Project was successful in the achievement of the objectives of the BSTEM programme with the introduction of STEM into the JHSs system through the usage of both the basic and more complex equipment. The Project also impacted learning outcomes by providing interactive mathematical equipment and ICT resources and new pedagogical techniques such as mathematical games.

The Committee is hopeful that the project objectives, which are aligned with Government's commitment to ensure the development of a healthy, knowledgeable, well-trained and disciplined labour force with the capacity to drive and sustain private sector-led growth in the country, would help to resolve the several challenges confronting the education sector in terms of performance and learning outcomes.

### 9.3 Teacher Training Programme

The Committee noted that adequate provisions have been made in the Contract for the training of teachers. The teacher training programme of the Project relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics would be based on developing the pedagogy of modern BSTEM teaching through investigative, and inquiry based activities and effective teaching practices.

It also came to the attention of the Committee that the training will complement the teaching practices taught in pre-service training for student teachers, and support the professional practice and professional knowledge standards within the National Teachers' Standards for the country.

It is the expectation of the Committee that the teacher training programme would equip teachers with the requisite skills required for the BSTEM programme in the country.

### 9.4 Children with Special Educational Needs

The Committee observed that the Project would target children with special educational needs. Children with special educational needs have learning difficulties or disabilities that render it difficult for them to learn than most children of the same age. As a result, these children need extra or different mode of teaching to enable them catch up with children of the same age who are without learning difficulties.



Indeed, literacy, numeracy and basic science are critical areas in children's educational development. Thus during the training and developmental programmes for teachers in both basic science and mathematics, the Project would focus on strategies that would provide classroom teachers with the requisite knowledge on how to address problems associated with special needs.

#### 9.5 Value for Money Audit

The Committee sought to find out whether value for money assessment was carried on the Contract.

Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that value for money assessment has been duly conducted by Crown Agents.

#### 9.6 Approval by the Minister for Finance

The Committee noted that by a letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, the Ministry of Finance granted approval to the Ministry of Education to commit the Government of Ghana to this multi-year expenditure. Section 33(1)(a) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) that provides that a covered entity needs the prior written approval of the Minister of Finance before tying Government to a multi-year financial commitment has therefore been satisfied.

### 10.0 **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**


The Committee has thoroughly examined the Contract Agreement for the Supply and Installation of Educational Equipment and Training in BSTEM in Ghana.


The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Project, when completed, would help address the long standing poor performance in mathematics and science education at the basic level, create a pipeline of critical thinkers that will lead to the socio-economic development of the country, and also facilitate the achievement of the long standing

policy goal of 60:40 sciences to humanities ratio in the tertiary education sector.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its Report, and in accordance with Article 181(5) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana approve the Contract Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana (represented by the Ministry of Education) and Itec Global of the United Kingdom for an amount of Seventy-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Two Pounds and Fifteen Pence (£76,920,562.15) for the Supply and Installation of Educational Equipment and Training in Basic Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education (BSTEM).

Respectfully submitted.

  
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**STEVENS SIAKA (HON)**  
**(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON**  
**EDUCATION)**

  
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**ABIGAIL ABA ANSO**  
**(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)**

JUNE 2019