

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

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

ON THE

**2017 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Hon Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2017 Financial Year to Parliament on Thursday, 2nd March, 2017. This was in fulfilment of 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 met on Tuesday, 21st March and Wednesday, 22nd March, 2017 and considered the referral. Present at the Committee's sittings were the Hon Minister for Education, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Enoch H. Cobbinah, Heads of Departments and Agencies of the Ministry of Education, and officials of the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister and his 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 2017 Financial Year.

- iv. The Report of the Committee on Education on the 2016 Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Education.

3.0 MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The mandate of the Ministry of Education is to provide equitable access and quality education to all Ghanaians to make them functional citizens in order to contribute to the growth and development of the country.

4.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The policies and programmes of the Ministry are implemented by the underlisted Departments and Agencies, among others:

- i. Ghana Education Service (GES).
- ii. National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE).
- iii. Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET).
- iv. National Service Scheme (NSS).
- v. The West African Examinations Council (WAEC).
- vi. Ghana Library Authority (GhLA).
- vii. Ghana Book Development Council (GBDC.)
- viii. Centre for Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS).
- ix. Non-Formal Education Division (NFED).
- x. National Inspectorate Board (NIB).
- xi. Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.
- xii. National Teaching Council (NTC).
- xiii. National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

5.0 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The policy objectives of the Ministry of Education in line with the Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda II (GSGDA II) are as follows:

- a. Increase inclusive and equitable access to and participation in education at all levels.
- b. Improve teaching and learning of science, mathematics and technology at all levels.
- c. Improve management of education service delivery.
- d. Improve the quality of teaching and learning at all levels.
- e. Ensure provision of life skills training and management for managing personal hygiene, fire safety, environment, sanitation and climate change.

6.0 PERFORMANCE IN 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

6.1 Financial Performance

For year 2016, a total amount of GH¢6,532,352,028.00 was approved for the Ministry of Education to undertake its programmes and activities. As at December 2016, an amount of GH¢6,845,694,489.00 had been expended by the Ministry thus representing 104.8% of the approved amount. The details are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Year 2016 Total Expenditure by Source of Funding

SOURCE OF FUNDING	APPROPRIATED AMOUNT GH¢	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE GH¢	VARIANCE GH¢	% EXPENDITURE
Government of Ghana (GoG)	4,862,412,944	5,341,398,838	(478,985,894)	109.9%
Development Partners' (DP) Fund	144,522,564	177,608,920	(33,086,356)	122.9%
Internally Generated Fund (IGF)	1,525,416,520	1,326,686,731	198,729,789	87.0%
TOTAL	6,532,352,028	6,845,694,489	(313,342,461)	104.8%

SOURCE: Ministry of Education's Presentation on the 2017 Annual Budget Estimates

Table 2

**Financial Performance by Economic Classification as at
31st December, 2016**

ITEM	APPROPRIATED AMOUNT GH¢	EXPENDITURE GH¢	VARIANCE GH¢	% EXPENDITURE
Compensation	4,878,118,792	5,358,932,786	(480,813,994)	109.9%
Goods and Services	1,304,010,475	1,116,363,050	187,647,425	85.6%
Capital Expenditure	350,222,761	370,398,653	(20,175,892)	105.8%
TOTAL	6,532,352,028	6,845,694,489	(313,342,461)	104.8%

SOURCE: Ministry of Education's Presentation on the 2017 Annual Budget Estimates

6.2 Key Achievements in Year 2016 by Programme

The underlisted achievements, among others, were made by the Ministry of Education in the pursuit of its mandate in year 2016:

i. Management and Administration Programme

- The Ministry procured and distributed 500 vehicles to educational institutions across the country in an effort to empower them to perform their duties creditably. In the distribution, priority was given to the newly created districts, and newly commissioned Community Day Senior High Schools (SHS) without vehicles.
- The Ghana Library Authority procured and distributed 67,371 books of various titles to regional and branch libraries across the country.

ii. Basic Education Programme

- Funds were released by the Ministry for the payment of Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE) Subsidy for 460,900 registered candidates who sat for the 2016 BECE.
- Capitation Grant for 5,626,118 pupils in all public basic schools was released by the Ministry for the first, second and third terms of the 2015/16 academic year.

- 2,105 classes were established in 1,812 communities in the three (3) Northern Regions and Brong Ahafo Region under the Complementary Basic Education programme.

iii. Secondary Education Programme

- ❖ An amount of GH¢71.9 million was released by Government for the payment of SHS Subsidy to students in public Senior High and Technical schools for the 2015/2016.
- ❖ 39 out of 124 Community Day SHS under construction were completed and handed over.
- ❖ 2,400 Mathematics and Science teachers were recruited and deployed by the Ministry to fill vacant places in public SHS.

iv. Non-Formal Education Programme

- The Non-Formal Education Division of the Ministry collaborated with Mondelez International (Cadbury Ghana) to establish 54 classes in eight (8) cocoa growing communities in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Western Regions.
- The National Functional Literacy Programme was expanded to reduce illiteracy rate especially in the rural communities. Currently, 2,632 classes are running with 65 learners.

v. Inclusive and Special Education Programme

- The Special Education Division of the Ministry implemented and expanded Inclusive Education in 14 districts of the country.

vi. Tertiary Education Programme

- ❖ The Students Loan Trust Fund reviewed its loan amount upward from a minimum of GH¢650 to GH¢1,000 and a maximum of GH¢1,600 to GH¢2,000 with effect from the 2016/2017 academic year.
- ❖ The Technical Universities Act, 2016 (Act 922) was passed to give legal effect to the policy on conversion of Polytechnics to Technical Universities.

7.0 OUTLOOK FOR YEAR 2017

For year 2017, the Ministry of Education will undertake the following among others:

- Review the Basic Level Curriculum to focus on the four R's (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Recreation) to include life skills and creative skills.
- Collaborate with Development Partners, the Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in the education sector to commence the construction of kindergartens to ensure that all four and five year olds are provided with kindergarten places.
- Provide for the payment of 70 percent of BECE registration fees for 467,692 registered public and private candidates will be made.
- Procure and distribute 250,000 pieces of school uniforms and 40,000 pieces of school sandals to pupils in selected deprived communities.
- Commence the implementation of free secondary education in September, starting with the first year students entering into Public Senior High Schools when the 2017/18 academic year starts.
- Strengthen collaboration with Africa Institute of Mathematics Science for the establishment of Science and Mathematics Centre of Excellence.
- Fully restore the payment of allowances to 43,570 teacher trainees in the 43 public Colleges of Education from September 2017.

- Intensify efforts to reach many in the very complex area of special needs to include children who are autistic, and those who will learn differently from the majority of learners.
- Align over 200 public TVAET institutions under the Ministry of Education to provide policy direction in the development of skills for industries in the country.
- Commence the preparatory works for the building of the State of the Art TVAET Institutions.



8.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2017

8.1 For year 2017, the Ministry of Education has been allocated an amount of **eight billion, three hundred and thirty million, ninety-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-nine cedis (GH¢8,330,099,829.00)**. The breakdown of the allocation by Source of Funding and Expenditure Item; Programme; and to the Cost Centres are shown in Tables 3, 4 and 5.

Table 3

Breakdown of 2017 Budgetary Allocation by Source of Funding and Expenditure Item

ITEM	GoG GH¢	ABFA GH¢	IGF GH¢	DP FUND GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Compensation	6,538,286,933	-	5,766,604	-	6,544,053,537
Goods and Services	591,650,737	211,717,458	486,258,632	63,684,622	1,353,311,449
Capital Expenditure	16,558,132	-	161,438,221	254,738,489	432,734,842
TOTAL	7,146,495,802	211,717,458	653,463,457	318,423,111	8,330,099,828

SOURCE: *The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2017 Financial Year*

Table 4

Breakdown of 2017 Budgetary Allocation by Programme

PROGRAMME	COMPENSATION GH¢	GOODS AND SERVICES GH¢	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE GH¢	ABFA GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Management and Administration	1,293,899,871	553,130,381	271,532,455	211,717,458	2,330,280,165
Basic Education	3,007,859,102	-	-	-	3,007,859,102
Second Cycle Education	976,666,413	-	-	-	976,666,413
Non-Formal Education	37,241,769	350,000	-	-	37,591,769
Inclusive and Special Education	22,619,778	891,000	-	-	23,510,778
Tertiary Education	1,205,766,604	587,222,610	161,202,387	-	1,954,191,601
T O T A L	6,544,053,537	1,141,593,991	432,734,842	211,717,458	8,330,099,828

SOURCE: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2017 Financial Year

Table 5

Breakdown of 2017 Budgetary Allocation to Cost Centres

COST CENTRE	GOG GH¢	ABFA GH¢	IGF GH¢	DONOR GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Main Ministry	63,637,497.40	-	-	-	63,637,497.40
COTVET	2,967,617.40	-	262,665.00	124,864,956.00	128,095,238.47
CENDLOS	277,883.00	-	6,560.00	-	284,443.00
NIB	708,717.73	-	-	-	708,717.73
NTC	411,400.00	-	-	-	411,400.00
NCCA	470,800.00	-	-	-	470,800.00
Ghana National Commission for UNESCO	1,007,792.70	-	-	-	1,007,792.70
WAEC (NATIONAL)	33,664,643.49	-	-	-	33,664,643.49
GhLA	6,814,067.00	-	53,388.00	-	6,867,455.00
NSS	352,098,294.87	-	3,773,345.00	-	355,871,639.87
WAEC (INTERNATIONAL)	13,605,612.58	-	-	-	13,605,612.58
GBDC	413,710.00	-	-	-	413,710.00
GES	5,365,593,663.76	211,717,458.00	-	193,558,155.00	5,770,869,276.76
NCTE	1,304,824,102.00	-	649,367,499.00	-	1,954,191,601.00
TOTAL	7,146,495,802.00	211,717,458.00	653,463,457.00	318,423,111.00	8,330,099,828.00

SOURCE: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2017 Financial Year

8.2 As shown in Table 3, the amount of GH¢6,544,053,537.00 allocated for compensation represent 78.6% of the total budgetary allocation. The allocation of GH¢1,353,311,449.00 for expenditure on Goods and Services represents 16.2% of the total budgetary allocation while the amount of GH¢432,734,842.00 for Capital Expenditure represents 5.2% of the total budgetary allocation.

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Main Ministry (Headquarters)

i. Total GoG Budgetary Allocation

The Committee noted that GoG allocation for year 2017 for all expenditure items of the Ministry of Education fell below the required budget for the implementation of its programmes and activities. For instance, out of the total amount of GH¢10,343,637,279.00 budgeted for programmes and activities under GoG, an amount of GH¢7,358,213,260.00 has been allocated to the Ministry. This represents a shortfall of GH¢2,985,424,019.00. The details are shown in Table 6.

Table 6

2017 GoG Budgetary Requirement against GoG Budgetary Allocation for year 2017

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT REQUESTED GH¢	AMOUNT ALLOCATED GH¢	FUNDING GAP GH¢
Compensation	8,056,730,173	6,538,286,933	1,518,443,240
Goods and Services	1,447,515,853	803,368,195	644,147,658
Capital Expenditure	839,391,253	16,558,132	822,833,121
T O T A L	10,343,637,279	7,358,213,260	2,985,424,019

SOURCE: Ministry of Education's Presentation on 2017 Annual Budget Estimates

The Committee noted that the funding gap would adversely affect the implementation of some of the Ministry's planned activities for year 2017. For instance, the Ministry had planned to pay utility and salary arrears of the universities, and recruit additional staff for GES, among others.

The Committee is of the view that the GoG allocation made to the Ministry for year 2017 especially in respect of Compensation should not have been decreased. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance should put in place, alternative measures to take care of the shortfall in the Ministry's allocation.

ii. Challenges confronting the Education Sector

The Committee noted that Ghana's education sector has chalked some successes in the provision of equitable access to education and improving upon the quality and management of education in the country. According to the sector Minister, these successes have been acknowledged by the international community within the framework of Education for All (EFA).

The above notwithstanding, the Committee observed that there remain challenges confronting the Education Sector, some of which are enumerated below:

1. Duplication of functions between the Divisions of GES and the independent education management institutions established under the Education Act, 2008 (Act 778).
2. 8,252 basic schools are in a deplorable state and require rehabilitation.
3. Inequitable access to education by all due to cost of secondary education and other factors.

4. No dedicated Colleges of Education for the training of Technical, Vocational and Agricultural Education and Training (TVAET) and ICT teachers.

To confront the challenges bedevilling the Education Sector and ensure equitable access to education, delivery of quality education, and management of education from the basic to tertiary level, the Committee urges the Ministry of Education to use its budgetary allocation judiciously.

9.2 Ghana Education Service (GES)

i. 2017 Budgetary Allocation

An amount of GH¢5,770,869,276.76 has been provided to GES for the implementation of its programmes and activities in year 2017. This comprises a GoG component of GH¢5,365,593,663.76, ABFA totaling GH¢211,717,458.00 and a Donor component of GH¢193,558,155.00.

The Committee observed that GES would apply its budgetary allocation to cover compensation for employees, administrative cost, social intervention programmes and donor activities.

ii. Inadequate Offices and Residential Accommodation

Inadequate offices and residential accommodation for staff of the newly created District Directorates continue to be a challenge to GES. This situation, obviously, would have an impact on the performance of the District Directorates.

The Committee noted that inadequate releases of funds to GES over the years, especially for capital expenditure, have contributed to the inability of GES to provide adequate infrastructure.

The Committee considers the provision of office and residential accommodation for staff of the newly created District Directorates as

crucial if GES is to deliver on its mandate at the District level. The Committee therefore urges the Sector Minister to ensure that measures are put in place to address this challenge in year 2017.

iii. Uneven Distribution of Teachers

The Committee also expressed concern about the uneven distribution of teachers across the country. The Committee noted that there is a high concentration of teachers in the urban areas, whereas in some areas, especially the deprived communities, some schools do not have a single trained and competent teacher.

Officials of GES indicated that measures have been put in place to ensure that the Transfer Grant Policy which has affected the implementation of the Staff Rationalisation Policy is sustained to curb the situation.

This issue has over the years been recurring during budget hearings on the Ministry's Budget Estimates. The Committee therefore urges the Sector Minister to ensure that GES revisits its teacher rationalisation exercise and redeploys over-staffed teachers in the urban areas to deprived communities. The Committee further urges 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.

iv. Inadequate Staffing

It came to the attention of the Committee that inadequate staffing, particularly non-teaching staff in the District Offices and Secondary schools, is a big challenge to GES. The Committee further took note of ~~the inability of GES to recruit staff to fill vacancies within the Service.~~

Officials of the Ministry informed the Committee that the Service is awaiting financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance to enable it recruit personnel to augment its staff strength.

Again, poor conditions of service has led to a high attrition rate of non-teaching staff of GES.

Inadequate staffing impacts on the performance of set programmes and activities. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should put measures in place to ensure that the staffing needs of GES are met.

9.3 National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE)

i. Budgetary Allocation

For year 2017, NCTE has been provided with a total amount of GH¢1,954,191,601.00 for its programmes and activities. The amount is made up of a GoG component of GH¢1,304,824,102.00 and an IGF component of GH¢649,367,499.00. The breakdown of the allocation by economic classification is as follows:

	GH¢
Compensation	1,205,766,604.00
Goods and Services	587,222,610.00
Capital Expenditure	161,202,387.00

The Committee noted that NCTE's budgetary requirement for its programmes and activities for year 2017 is GH¢3,656,348,310.00. However, NCTE has been allocated an amount of GH¢1,954,191,601.00 leaving a shortfall of GH¢1,702,156,709.00 which represents 46.6%. Of grave concern to the Committee is the allocation made to NCTE for compensation. NCTE's budgetary requirement for compensation is GH¢1,544,272,911 but it has been allocated an amount of GH¢1,205,766,604.00 which falls short of its requirement by 21.9%.

Considering the number of programmes that NCTE would have to implement in its quest to ensure the delivery of quality education, and management of education at the tertiary level, the Committee is of the opinion that the shortfall would render it difficult for NCTE to fund its operations and projects in the tertiary education sector. Thus, the provision of non-financial assets, particularly, infrastructural facilities by the tertiary institutions would be difficult.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, should ensure that the budgetary needs of NCTE are addressed, especially its compensation component.

ii. NCTE's Critical Challenges

The Committee noted that apart from inadequate funding, the Council is confronted with challenges such as weak linkage with industries for practical training; limited opportunities for science and technology-oriented programmes as a result of inadequate teachers, laboratories, equipment and consumables; and the slow rate of improving infrastructure facilities.

It came to the attention of the Committee that during discussions on the 2016 Annual Budgets Estimates of the Ministry, NCTE lamented the above-mentioned challenges. The Committee was therefore surprised to hear of the same challenges during this year's deliberations. This situation gives an indication that efforts are not being made to address the challenges.

The Committee is of the considered view that this state of affairs does not augur well for the attainment of operational targets. The Committee therefore urges the Sector Minister to put measures in place to address the challenges confronting NCTE.

9.4 Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS)

i. Budgetary Allocation

CENDLOS exists to harmonise and regulate Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in the country, package education and training for delivery through ODL using ICT tools, support, coordinate and offer advice on ODL, operate Open School System of education in the country and provide training in ODL delivery and also assist institutions especially Polytechnics and Colleges of Education to adopt dual-mode delivery.

For year 2017, the Centre has been provided with a total sum of GH¢284,443.00 comprising an amount of GH¢127,883.00 for compensation and GH¢156,560.00 for Goods and Services.

In year 2017, the Centre intends to train 275 SHS core subjects and ICT teachers from Secondary Education Improvement Project (SEIP) beneficiary schools in the use of the iCapmpusgh portal, iBox and eContent; install 55 iBoxes with eContent in 55 SEIP beneficiary schools nationwide; procure one (1) mobile service van for service iBoxes; procure and install 125 solar power equipment in SEIP beneficiary schools; among others.

The Committee was happy to note that the Centre is taking steps to create a Platform whereby all students, irrespective of location, can gain access to all SHS core subjects. The Centre would also ensure that students across the country gain access to standardised subject content without the use of internet facilities but through the iBox device currently being installed in SEIP beneficiary schools.

The Committee acknowledges the successes achieved by CENDLOS so far. It therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should make timely releases of funds to the Centre to enable it complete the installation of iBoxes in SEIP beneficiary schools on time.

9.5 National Service Scheme (NSS)

i. 2017 Budgetary Allocation

A total amount of GH¢355,871,639.87 has been provided for the programme and activities of the Scheme in year 2017. The amount is made up of a GoG allocation of GH¢352,098,294.87 and an IGF component of GH¢3,773,345.00.

Out of the total allocation, GH¢352,048,294.87 is for the payment of compensation, GH¢3,587,511.00 for Goods and Services, and GH¢235,834.00 for Capital Expenditure.

The Committee observed that in year 2017, NSS will utilise its funds for the following activities, among others:

- Refurbishment and repair of NSS farm structures and equipment.
- Reclamation and institutionalisation of ownership of NSS farmlands.
- Clearing and preparation of NSS farmlands.
- Planting for food and jobs project.

The Committee urges the Scheme to utilise its budgetary allocation judiciously in the implementation of its planned programmes and activities for the year.

ii. National Service Postings

The Committee observed that the refusal by personnel to accept posting to some deprived communities across the country remain a challenge to the Scheme. The situation leads to oversupply of service persons in the urban areas, thus depriving the rural communities of the needed number of service personnel.

According to officials of the Scheme, measures are being put in place to mitigate the problem. For instance, the Scheme is currently engaging the National Health Insurance Authority to reduce health insurance

premium by 50% for personnel who accept postings to deprived areas across the country. Other stakeholders are also being engaged to determine the support they could offer personnel posted to deprived areas, as a source of motivation.

The Committee strongly urges the NSS to intensify its public education on the Scheme and the need for personnel to accept postings irrespective of the placement. The Committee further urges the Scheme to reward personnel who accept posting to deprived areas.

9.6 West African Examinations Council (WAEC)

i. Approved Budget for year 2017

For year 2017, WAEC (National) has been allocated a total sum of GH¢33,664,643.49 for its activities. This is made up of an amount of GH¢8,997,735.49 for the compensation of its employees and GH¢24,666,908.00 for Goods and Services.

ii. 2017 BECE Examination Fee

The Committee observed that the approved fee for year 2017 BECE examination is GH¢70.00 per candidate, representing an increase of 11.1% of year 2016 approved fee.

Officials of WAEC informed the Committee that Government will subsidise the fee to be paid by each candidate with an amount of GH¢49.00, representing 70% of the examination fee for year 2017. Thus, each candidate will pay an amount of GH¢21.00.

iii. Examination Malpractices

The Committee noted with concern, the cancellation of examination papers almost every year due to examination malpractices. Candidates including the visually impaired who have in most cases adequately prepared for such examinations and were not involved in the

malpractices have to bear the brunt of re-writing cancelled papers. These candidates most often go through emotional stress which tends to affect their performance in papers which are re-written. This situation, in the opinion of the Committee, does not augur well for the image of WAEC.

Officials of the Council assured the Committee that measures, including public education, and the use of the Differentia Profile Software to detect examination malpractices in multiple-choice tests, have been put in place to control the menace.

The Committee urges the Council to ensure that the measures put in place to control examination malpractices are strictly adhered to. In addition, persons found guilty of being involved in examination malpractices should be punished.

9.7 Ghana Library Authority (GhLA)

i. Budgetary Allocation

GhLA has been allocated an amount of GH¢6,867,455.00 for its programmes and activities in year 2017. This comprises an amount of GH¢6,614,067.00 for Compensation, GH¢200,000.00 for Goods and Services, and GH¢53,388.00 as Internally Generated Fund (IGF). There was no allocation for Capital Expenditure.

The importance of the Public Library System in the enhancement of educational, social and moral well-being of the society cannot be overemphasised. It is therefore worrying to note that a meagre amount of GH¢253,388.00, representing 3.7% of the total allocation was provided for the programmes and activities of GhLA.

For year 2017, GhLA has committed itself to the implementation of the following programmes and activities, among others:

- Acquire relevant books, periodicals, journals and magazines to restock the static and mobile libraries.
- Organise free ICT training for basic schools within the catchment areas of the Authority.
- Complete the National Children and Mobile Library Complex being sponsored by SSNIT as part of their corporate social responsibility.
- Acquire computers and accessories, library furniture, etc.

In the opinion of the Committee, the 3.7% of the total budgetary allocation for the implementation of the planned programmes and activities of the Authority for year 2017 is woefully inadequate.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Education should take a closer look at the importance of the public library system to the socio-economic development of Ghana and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to GhLA in subsequent budgets.

ii. Staffing Needs

The Committee observed that adequate staff, comprising professional and para-professional, line and supporting classes, would be required by the Ghana Library Authority to enable it provide satisfactory public library services to the user public.

According to officials of the GhLA, the Authority's projection in year 1975 was that by year 2000, five hundred (500) professional librarians would be engaged to run the public libraries in the country. However in year 2017, the Authority can boast of only thirty-nine (39) professional librarians.

The Committee noted that by international standards and best practice, a public library system of the size and scope of GhLA would require a minimum staff strength of 2,200. The Committee further noted that a total number of 1,316 members of staff would be needed by the Authority for its operations in the sixty (60) public libraries nationwide and other establishments under the management of the Authority. However, the current staff strength of the Authority nationwide is five hundred and thirty-six (536).

Officials of GhLA informed the Committee that although the Authority was granted approval to recruit thirty-four (34) personnel in year 2014, the Authority is awaiting financial clearance from the Ministry of Finance to enable it recruit the thirty-four (34) personnel. Again, approval is yet to be granted to the Authority's request in years 2016 and 2017 for the replacement of forty-two (42) personnel who are no longer with the Authority.

The Committee noted that the current staff of the Authority is woefully inadequate for the efficient and smooth running of its operations. Exacerbating the situation is the high staff turnover rate due to poor and unattractive conditions of service. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should grant the Authority the financial clearance to enable it recruit its needed staff.

iii. Mobile Library Services

The Mobile Library Service is an important pro-poor outreach programme of the public library service. The Committee noted that inadequate budgetary allocation to GhLA over the years has affected the proper functioning of the outreach programme.

For instance, the Committee noted that since its inception, the operational areas of the Mobile Library Service were two (2) districts and three (3) communities within a Region (where a community represents

an area within the jurisdiction of an Assembly Member). However, due to limited funding, the operational areas of the Mobile Library Service had to be redefined in year 2014 to cater for one (1) district and one (1) community per Region.

The Committee recognises that libraries play a critical role in the development of literacy skills in every society. The Committee therefore recommends that measures should be put in place by Government to adequately resource the Authority.

9.8 Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET)

i. Budgetary Allocation

For the implementation of its programmes and activities in year 2017, COTVET has been allocated an amount of GH¢128,095,238.47. Out of this amount, GH¢1,357,617.47 is for Compensation, GH¢45,521,510.00 would be used for expenditure on Goods and Services while GH¢81,216,111.00 would cater for Capital Expenditure.

In year 2017, COTVET would use its funds to coordinate the realignment of all TVAET institutions to one Ministry; review existing Competence Based Training (CBT) programmes in relevant trade areas; sensitise and rebrand TVAET; institutionalise monitoring and evaluation of COTVET activities, including all external donor projects being hosted by COTVET, among others.

The Committee therefore urges COTVET to ensure judicious use of its allocated fund to achieve its planned programme of activities.

ii. Rebranding of TVAET System

The Committee underscored the contributions of the TVAET system to national development. Unfortunately, TVAET is considered by many as

the last resort in education when all efforts to enter tertiary institutions prove futile.

The Committee was therefore happy to note that COTVET intends to sensitise the citizenry on the importance of the TVAET system in its quest to rebrand TVAET in year 2017.

The Committee urges the Council to ensure that TVAET is rebranded to attract more people. The Council should also aim at improving the quality of TVAET by re-orienting and improving the TVAET system so that it prepares the citizenry, especially the youth, effectively for wage and self-employment in all sectors of the economy and also meet the demands of industries in the country.

10.0 CONCLUSION

Undoubtedly, education plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of every nation. Thus, it is necessary to adequately resource the Ministry of Education to enable it achieve its mandate.

Unfortunately, out of the total sum of GH¢8,330,099,829.00 to the Ministry for year 2017, only GH¢1,353,311,449.00 constituting 16.2% is for Goods and Services. By implication, if the allocation for Goods and Services is not released timeously, the Ministry would find it difficult to smoothly run its operations.


It is also insightful to note that although an amount of GH¢6,544,053,537.00 representing 78.6% of the total allocation is earmarked for compensation, the Committee noted that allocation to almost all the Departments and Agencies of the Ministry fell short of their required amounts.



The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the Ministry of Education is adequately resourced to enable it perform its functions effectively.

In the light of the above, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the sum of **eight billion, three hundred and thirty million, ninety-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-nine cedis (GH¢8,330,099,829.00)** for the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Education for the 2017 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.


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HON. STEVENS SIAKA
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION)


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ABIGAIL ABA ANSO
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

MARCH 2017



