

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET
COMMITTEE**

ON THE

**2015 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON CIVIC EDUCATION (NCCE)**

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

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BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC
EDUCATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance, Hon. Seth Terkper presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the year ending 31st December, 2015 to Parliament on Wednesday, 19th November, 2014 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

Pursuant to Order 140(4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Annual Budget Estimates of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) was referred by the Speaker to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report.

Subsequently, the Committee met with the Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs. Charlotte Osei and officials from the NCCE and discussed the Estimates.

The Committee is grateful to Madam Chairperson and his staff for their input during the deliberations.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents:

- 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 2014 Financial Year
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2015 Financial Year
- v. The Report of the Special Budget Committee on the 2014 Annual Budget Estimates of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)

3.0 MISSION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission is established to promote and sustain democracy and inculcate into the Ghanaian citizenry the awareness of their rights and obligations through civic education.

3.1 The Broad Policy Objectives of the Commission

The broad sectoral policy objectives of the NCCE derived from the National Development Planning Agenda (GSGDA II) are to:

- a) strengthen the arms of government and independent governance institutions
- b) foster civic advocacy to nurture the culture of rights and responsibilities, and
- c) strengthen the functional relationship between Assembly members and citizens

3.2 Under the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF)

The NMTDPF contains six Objectives that are relevant to the mandate of the National Commission for Civic Education. These are to:

- a. expand and sustain opportunities for effective citizenry engagement;
- b. strengthen and promote the culture of rights and responsibilities;
- c. promote social accountability in the public policy cycle;
- d. enhance public education on level aid, justice delivery and administration;
- e. work towards improving internal security for human safety and protection;
- f. instil a sense of duty and civic responsibility (patriotism).

4.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF 2014 BUDGET

4.1 An amount of **Twenty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Cedis (GH¢26,982,410)** was allocated to the Commission in 2014 for its programmes and activities. The breakdown of the allocation is shown below:

Table 1
BUDGET PERFORMANCE IN 2014
(January – October)

ITEM	APPROVED ALLOCATION GHC	RELEASES AS AT OCTOBER GHC	EXPENDITURE AS AT OCTOBER GHC	VARIANCE OF ALLOCATION OVER EXPENDITURE GHC
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	24,003,989	22,215,226.90 (93%)	22,215,226.90 (93%)	1,788,762.10 (7%)
GOODS AND SERVICES	2,316,308	1,042,339.00 (45%)	481,413.00 (21%)	1,834,895.00 (79%)
ASSETS	662,113	-	-	662,113
TOTAL	26,982,410	23,257,565.90 (86%)	22,696,639.90 (84%)	4,285,770.10 (16%)

As indicated in Table 1, a total allocation of **GH¢26,982,410** was approved for the implementation of the programmes of the NCCE in 2014. Actual expenditure as at October, had amounted to **GH¢22,696,639.90 (84%)**. About 93% of Employee Compensation had been expended by October 2014, with clear indication of no overruns by end of the Budget year.

For Goods and Services, an amount of GH¢481,413.00 representing only 21% of the approved allocation of GH¢2,316,308.00 had actually been expended by the Commission as at October. To date, no releases has been made from the Assets Votes.

4.2 **ACHIEVEMENTS MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN THE 2014 BUDGET YEAR**

Irrespective of the financial challenges, the Commission had some key achievements:

- a) The Commission focused on its programme of strengthening the pillars of democracy. In line with this, the Commission successfully organized a number of National Dialogue Series to clarify the work and functions of certain state institutions such as Parliament, District Assemblies, the Media, the Judiciary, the Executive and Independent Governance Institutions (IGIs).
- b) The Commission also commissioned research into three topical issues as follows:
 - i. Public perceptions of the effectiveness of the Media, Parliament and District Assemblies

- ii. Inclusiveness and participation of People with Disabilities (PWDs)
 - iii. A nationwide study on Child, Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM). Reports of findings are expected to be launched in early 2015.
- c) Citizenship Week Programmes and tree planting exercises were held in 4,000 schools in all districts across the country to inculcate good citizenship values in school children.
- d) Community Engagement Programmes were organized for media personnel and youth groups in endemic communities to end child, early and forced marriages.

5.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2015

- ✦ In 2015, the Commission will educate and sensitize the public on the principles of the 1992 Constitution to increase awareness, advocacy and enforcement of citizen's rights and responsibilities.
- ✦ NCCE will collaborate with the Electoral Commission to sensitize the citizenry to reduce acrimony and create a free political environment to ensure successful District Level Elections (DLEs). In the same vein, the Commission would also work towards ensuring increased participation of marginalized groups in the DLEs.
- ✦ The Commission will intensify its civic programmes in 42,500 communities across all districts involving all demographic groups. Awareness creation will continue and many citizens would be

encouraged to exercise their civic rights and responsibilities to improve tolerance levels within the society.

- ✦ A three-year campaign to address different aspects of indiscipline and corruption would be launched in 2015.

5.1 Budgetary Allocation for 2015

Out of a total budgetary requirement of Thirty-two Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢32,250,765.00) submitted to the Ministry of Finance, a total sum of **Twenty Nine Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢29,356,503.00)** has been allocated for the implementation of the programmes of the National Commission on Civic Education for the 2015 financial year. The breakdown of the allocation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2
ALLOCATION FOR 2015

Expenditure Item	2015 Budgetary Requirement GH¢	2015 Allocation GH¢	%
Employee Compensation	27,501,927.00	27,498,349.00	-
Goods & Services	4,048,838.00	1,158,154.00	29
Assets	700,000.00	700,000.00	-
TOTAL	32,250,765.00	29,356,503.00	91

5.2 As indicated in Table 2, about 91% of the Commission's total budgetary requirement has been granted, however, with regards to

Goods and Services, only 29% of the proposed requirement was allocated. All requirements for Employee Compensation and Assets has virtually been allocated.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Challenges to the 2014 Goods and Service Allocation of the Commission

The Committee observed that, even though the 2014 Budget of the Commission has achieved about 84% performance as at October 2014, less than a quarter (21%) of the Goods and Services Votes has been released over the same period.

This had an adverse impact on the implementation of most of the programmes of the Commission during the year and also left an outstanding commitment of Nine Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Ghana cedis (**GHC945,980.00**) incurred on administrative expenses in the course of the year.

The Committee observed that, the outstanding commitment of GHC945,980.00 on the Goods and Service Votes will almost wipe out the allocation of GHC1,158,154.00 for Goods and Service expenses for the 2015 budget year. Thus leaving a small amount of **GHC212,174.00**, representing 18% of the Allocation for Goods and Services expenditure in 2015. Meanwhile, the total projection of Goods and Services submitted by the Commission for the 2015 Budget Year, stands at GHC2,590,000.00.

Given that, already the 2015 Goods and Services allocation for the Commission fall short by about 71% of the requirement, the above

situation, would mean that, the NCCE will face serious challenges in the delivery of its programmes in 2015. The Committee therefore request the Ministry of Finance to give special consideration to the Goods and Services Votes of the Commission in a future supplementary Budget.

6.2 Non Performance on the Assets Votes of the Commission

The Committee noted that, no releases were made from the Assets Allocation of the Commission for the second year running. These affected the acquisition of much needed logistics such as vehicles, cinema vans and motorbikes for the implementation of civic education programmes and the setting up of offices for the newly created districts in accordance with its statute.

The Committee observed serious challenges with regards to logistics for the execution of the mandate of the Commission and considered it very unfortunate that the Commission can only boast of two cinema vans for work in the entire 216 districts in the country. It was expected that with the impending District level Elections in the early part of 2015, priority would have been given to the NCCE with regards to releases of requests on its 2014 Assets Votes to enable it procure some priority logistics.

The Committee recommends to the Ministry of Finance as a matter of urgency, to release the entire Allocation of the 2015 Assets Votes of GH¢ 700,000.00 to the Commission to enable it initiate procurement procedures at the start of 2015 Budget year.

6.3 Challenges with the Preparations towards the District Level Elections

The Committee noted with concern the reduction in the 2015 Budgetary Allocation of the Commission for Goods and Services from a request of **GHC2,590,000** to **GHC1,158,154**. This would be inadequate to meet the recurrent expenditure of the Commission and exacerbate the Commission's inability to deliver on its mandate of providing voter education for the 2015 District level Elections.

The Committee was informed that, NCCE submitted a separate budget of **GHC2,350,000.00** to the Ministry of Finance to fund Civic and Voter Education programmes for the District Level Elections. However, the Ministry did not make any provision to finance the set programmes. The Committee is concerned that, NCCE may not be able to support the 2015 District Level Elections as per its mandate, since no provision has been made in the Budget to support any of the programmes for the Elections.

The Committee is of the view that, in the event that the Commission is unable to execute its mandate of supporting the elections, the district level elections would face low voter turnout owing to limited voter education.

6.4 Over Reliance on Donor Support

In the 2014 Budget year, the Commission received a total of GHC728,280 as Donor Support from the European Union and the Canadian Government. The Committee observed that, but for the ingenuity of the Commission in soliciting support from the European Union, most

of the programmes of the Commission could not have been successfully implemented.

However, it is the fear of the Committee that, over reliance on donor support for the programmes of the Commission would compromise the integrity and independence of the Commission. Independent Governance Institutions such as the NCCE therefore needs to be adequately resourced to maintain their integrity.

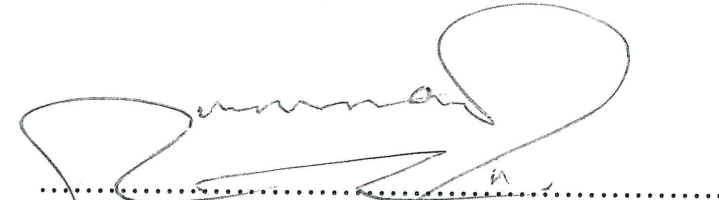
Again in 2015, the European Union has promised donor support of €500,000 for some of the programmes of the Commission. The Committee is however concerned that, when counterpart funds from GoG sources is not forthcoming, it might affect releases from the Donor funds and stall implementation of the set programmes. The Committee therefore urges Government to meet its part by paying counterpart portions promptly when the European Union honours the promised funding to the Commission for the implementation of some of its programmes.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The NCCE plays a major role in the democratic dispensation of the country. It is therefore critical that the NCCE is adequately resourced to enable it carry out its mandate effectively and independently. In the opinion of the Committee, the budgetary allocation to the Commission for year 2015 is inadequate. Thus, additional funding should be considered in a future supplementary budget for the Commission to enable it carry out its planned programmes in fulfillment of its mandate.

To this end, the Committee recommends to the House to approve the sum of **Twenty Nine Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Three Ghana Cedis (GH¢29,356,503.00)** for the National Commission for Civic Education for the 2015 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. ALBAN S.K. BAGBIN
(MAJORITY LEADER & CHAIRMAN,
SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)



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MRS. AKUA DUROWAA OWUSU AGYEKUM
(CLERK, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)

18TH, DECEMBER, 2014

