

**IN THE THIRD SITTING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE EIGHT PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
ON THE 2023 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2023 financial year to Parliament on Thursday 24th November, 2022 in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Section 21 (3) of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

Pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Electoral Commission (EC) to the Special Budget Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee was assisted by the Deputy Commissioners of the Commission, Dr. Bossman Asare and Mr. Samuel Tettey and other officials of the Commission as well as officials of the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee is grateful to the Officials for the assistance.

2.0. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during its deliberations:

- a. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- b. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- c. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016, (Act 921)
- d. The Electoral Commission Act, 1993 (Act 451);
- e. The Political Parties Act 2000 (Act 574);
- f. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 Financial Year;
- g. Report of the Special Budgets Committee on the Annual Estimates of the Electoral Commission for the 2022 financial year; and
- h. Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for 2023 –2026.

3.0. MISSION STATEMENT

The Electoral Commission is mandated under Article 43(1) of the 1992 Constitution and the Electoral Commission Act, 1993 (Act 451), to organize and supervise all public elections and referenda in Ghana, to advance the course of democracy and good governance through free, fair and transparent elections.

4.0. THE GOAL OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The goal of the Electoral Commission is to be an institution adequately resourced, staffed with professionally trained and motivated personnel, totally independent in the performance of its functions and dedicated to efficient delivery of free, fair and transparent elections to advance the course of democracy and good governance for sustainable development.

The Commission's development goals under the National Medium Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) are to;

- a. maintain a stable, united and safe society and
- b. Strengthen Ghana's role in international affairs.

5.0. CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The functions of the Electoral Commission are prescribed under Article 45 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. The core functions of the Commission are to:

- i. compile the register of voters and revise it at such periods, as may be determined by law;
- ii. demarcate the electoral boundaries for both national and local government elections;
- iii. conduct and supervise all public elections and referenda;
- iv. educate the people on the electoral process and its purpose;
- v. undertake programmes for expansion of the registration of voters;
- vi. properly store election materials; and
- vii. perform such other functions as may be prescribed by law.

6.0. 2022 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

For the implementation of its core mandate, programmes and activities in the 2022 financial year, an amount of **One Hundred and Eighteen Million, Six Hundred and Eleven Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢118,611,000)** was allocated to the Electoral Commission for its operational expenses in the 2022 Appropriation. Out of this amount **GH¢118,121,000** was from GoG and GH¢490,000 is from Internally Generated Funds (IGF).

The amount was allocated to the various expenditure items of the Commission as follows:

Expenditure item	2022 allocation (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees -	GH¢68,121,000.00
Goods and Services -	GH¢40,490,000.00
CAPEX -	GH¢10,000,000.00
Total	<u>GH¢118,611,000</u>

The allocation was further revised during the mid-year budget review to **One Hundred and Four Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢104,469,320.00)** of which GoG is GH¢104,159,320 and IGF is GH¢490,000.00. The revised allocation was disbursed among the three main cost centers of the Commission as follow:

Expenditure item	2022 Revised allocation (GH¢)
Compensation of Employees -	GH¢68,121,000.00
Goods and Services -	GH¢29,148,320.00
CAPEX -	GH¢7,200,000.00
Total	<u>GH¢104,469,320.00</u>

As at September, 2022 an amount of GH¢**59,869,705.73** representing **57.31%** of the 2022 revised appropriation, had been released to the Commission for its operations during the year under review.

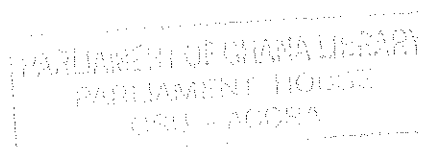
The 2022 appropriation and actual releases to the Commission as at September, 2022 is presented in Table 1 below

Table 1: 2022 Allocation and Actual Releases as at September 2022

Item of Expenditure	2022 Appropriation (A)	2022 Revised Allocation (B)	2022 Release (GH¢) (C)	Variance (GH¢) (B-C)	Percentage (%) Released
Compensation	68,121,000	68,121,000	47,109,203.10	21,011,796.90	69.16
Goods & Services	40,490,000	29,148,320	12,760,502.63	16,387,817.37	43.77
CAPEX	10,000,000	7,200,000	0.00	7,200,000.00	0.00
Total	118,611,000	104,469,320	59,869,705.73	44,599,614.27	57.31

The Commission's actual expenditure during the period which stands at GH¢**59,869,705.73** was used to undertake the following activities:

- i. The Commission successfully conducted inspections of political party offices across the country to ensure compliance with the Political Parties Act 2000, (Act 574);
- ii. Successfully reviewed the audit reports and financial returns of political parties, and examined the incidence of rejected ballots in the 2020 General Elections to determine gaps and make recommendations for future voter education programmes;
- iii. Successfully installed metal shelves for the storage of BVR's and BVD's;
- iv. Successfully conducted 5 Professional development training for staff; and
- v. The Commission successfully recruited forty-five (45) new staff and promoted 795 staff.



6.0. OUTLOOK FOR 2023

In the 2023 financial year, the Electoral Commission intends to pursue the following programmes and activities among others:

- a. Conduct District Level Elections;
- b. Continue with the registration of voters at the district level;
- c. Exhibit voters' register at the polling station level;
- d. Upgrade the ICT infrastructure for election operations

7.0. 2023 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

For the implementation of the above programmes and activities, the Electoral Commission has been allocated an amount of **Three Hundred and Eighty-Six Million and Forty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢386,047,606)** for the implementation of its activities for the 2023 financial year. Out of this allocation, Government of Ghana (GoG) is **GH¢385,741,696** and **GH¢305,910** is from Internally Generated Funds (IGF).

The 2023 allocation would be expended on the various expenditure items of the Commission as follows:

Compensation of Employees	-	GH¢75,761,696
Goods and Services	-	GH¢309,000,000
CAPEX	-	GH¢1,285,910
Total	-	<u>GH¢386,047,606</u>

The allocation would be disbursed among the two main programs of the Commission as follows:

Management and Administration	-	GH¢129,987,760
Electoral Services	-	GH¢256,059,846
Total	-	GH¢386,047,606

Detailed disbursement of the 2023 allocation among the various programs and sub-programs of the Electoral Commission is as indicated in the Table below:

Table 3: 2023 Budgetary Allocation by Cost Center

2023 Budget Program	2023 Budget Sub-Program	2023 allocation GH¢
Management and Administration	Human Resource and General Services	109,203,765
	Finance	681,850
	Information Technology	20,102,144
Electoral Services	Compilation of the Voters Register	56,059,846
	Conducting Elections	200,000,000
	TOTAL	386,047,606

8.0. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee after a careful scrutiny of the Estimates made the following observations and recommendations:

8.1. Enforcement of Electoral Laws

The Committee noted that, the Commission has successfully conducted inspections of political party offices across the country to ensure compliance with the Political Parties Act 2000, (Act 574); which mandates political parties to establish offices in all the regions of Ghana and in addition, be organized in not less than two-thirds of all the districts in each Region.

Officials of the Commission informed the Committee that, after the audit, the Commission invoked the sanctions regime in the Political Parties Act on all defaulting political parties by deleting such parties from the register so as to engender sanity in the political landscape.

The Committee further urged the EC to Strengthen the Political Parties Act 2000, (Act 574) by demanding tenancy agreements, documents of ownership and among others for the various political party offices across the country to ascertain that political parties truly own or occupy such offices.

8.2. Voters Registration

The Committee noted that the Electoral Commission failed to take steps to update the Voters Register by registering Ghanaians as and when they attain the constitutionally mandated age of 18 years to register to vote. The practice in the view of the Committee deprives qualified citizens the right to participate in elections. The Committee was informed that a new constitutional instrument is being prepared to enable the Commission undertake continuous registration of voters across the country. The instrument would clearly outline the modalities and processes for the continuous registration exercise to ensure that political parties have confidence in the process.

8.3. Registration of New Voters

On the requirement for registration as a voter in Ghana, the Committee was informed that the Commission is collaborating with the National Identification Authority to harmonize data and ensure that the National Identification Card (Ghana Card) becomes the sole document for the purposes of identification and registration to obtain a voter's ID Card as the Commission intends to phase out all other forms of identification including

the use of guarantors for the purposes of obtaining authentic Voter's Register fit for every elections.

The Committee urge the Electoral Commission to deal with the processes cautiously as it has the potential to disenfranchise many potential voters. The Committee further expressed misgivings about the intention of the Commission having in mind that many Ghanaians who registered for the Ecowas ID Card do not have their cards.

The Committee recommends to the Commission to collaborate with the NIA, Parliament and Political Parties to work out the feasibility of the data harmonization and its application for the voters register to ensure credible Voters register and peaceful elections.

8.3. District Assemblies Elections

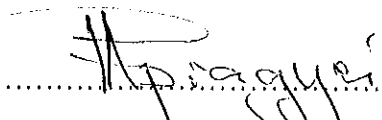
The Committee noted that, the Electoral Commission requires an amount of GH¢453,152,203.07 for the conduct of District Level Elections in 2023. The Budget ceiling however allocated only GH¢200,000,000 for the activity. The Budgetary shortfall means the Commission would have to scale down some planned activities to enable it operate within the budgetary constraints. The Commission intends to redesign its training program, and review the number of days allotted for voter's registration and exhibition of the voter register downwards to enable it operate within the limitations of the budget.

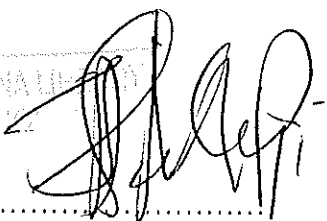
The Committee is of the view that, the District Level Election is an important component of the country's democratic architecture which allows for the devolution of power to the local levels. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry of Finance to take steps to ensure the availability of resources for the conduct of the upcoming District Level elections.

9.0. CONCLUSION

The Committee having carefully scrutinised the Estimates of the Electoral Commission recommends to the House to adopt its Report and approve the sum of **Three Hundred and Eighty-Six Million and Forty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢386,047,606)** for the implementation of the programs of the Electoral Commission for the 2023 Financial Year.

Respectfully submitted.


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HON. PATRICIA APPIAGYEI
(VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)


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JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS.)
(CLERK, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)

21st December, 2022