

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

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON THE
2021 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (NCCE)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Programme Based Budget Estimates for the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) were laid in the House on Friday, 12th March, 2021 and referred to the Special Budget Committee for Consideration and report in accordance with Article 179 the 1992 Constitution and Standing Order 140(4) of the House.

This referral followed the presentation of the 2021 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government to the House by the Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of Government Business Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Kathy Addy and officials from the NCCE and Technical officers from the Ministry Of Finance attended upon the Committee and assisted in its deliberation. The Committee is grateful to the Deputy Chairperson and officials for attending upon the Committee.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following additional documents in the cause of its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;
- iii. National Commission for Civic Education Act, 1993 (Act 452)
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2021 Financial Year;

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- v. The 2021 Programme Based Budget Estimates for National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).
- vi. The Coordinated Program of Economic and Social Policies
- vii. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- viii. The African Union (AU) Agenda 2063.

4.0 MISSION AND VISSION

The object of the National Commission for Civic education (NCCE) is to make a significant number of Ghanaians attain awareness of their civic rights and responsibilities for the achievement of democracy and a well-disciplined society. The Commission will achieve this through public education of the Citizenry on the awareness of their civil rights and obligations. By this therefore; The vision of the Commission is to be an effective independent governance institution providing civic education to all Ghanaians and working towards sustaining Ghana's democracy.

5.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

In accordance with the NCCE Act, 1993 (Act 452), the Commission is enjoined to perform the following functions;

- a) Create and sustain within the society, the awareness of the principles and objectives of the constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Ghana;
- b) Educate and encourage the public to defend the constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violation;
- c) Formulate for the consideration of Government from time to time, programmes at national, regional and district levels aimed at realizing the objectives of the constitution;
- d) Formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Ghana awareness of their civic

responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people

- e) Assess for the information of Government, the limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from the existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for re-dressing these inequalities.

5.0 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

During the 2020 financial year, the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) undertook the following activities;

- a. The Commission developed strategies to guide its engagements through mass media infomercials, IT based communications, social media platforms and engagement of stakeholder groups on the COVID-19.
- b. The Commission organised a study through its programme called 'Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian voter'. With the object to investigate matters of concern to the Ghanaian voter in the general elections.
- c. The Commission organised an end-line survey to assess progress made on key indicators in the Anti-Corruption, Rule of Law and Accountability Programme (ARAP) using the base-line study carried out in 2017 as well as evaluate the performance of NCCE in providing the citizenry with education on ARAP.
- d. The Commission collaborated with the Psychological Association of Ghana to build the capacity of 314 District and Regional Directors and some selected staff of the head office for effective education on de-stigmatization of recovered persons from COVID-19.
- e. Conducted a Community Satisfaction survey to assess beneficiary usage and satisfaction with Maternal, New-Born and Child Healthcare Services provided at the CHPS Zones in 8 Community Performance-Based Financing (CPBF) Pilot Project Implementation districts in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta, and Oti Regions.
- f. Held 6,770 community and stakeholder engagements to deepen and sustain civic awareness on corruption.
- g. Establish Inter Party Dialogue Committees (IPDC) to mediate electoral disputes before, during and after elections in all districts and regions.

- h. Collaborated with Nation Builders Corps (NABCo) to train 100,000 NABCo trainees serving on the various modules across the country on core values of the nation and ;
- i. Engaged with the marginalised and excluded groups (Women, PWDs,) on participation in governance in compliance with (SDG 16.7).

5.1 2020 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

In the year under review, the National Commission for Civic Education was allocated an amount of **Sixty Million, Seven Hundred and Three Thousand, Six Hundred And Seventy Ghana Cedis (GH¢60,703,670)** for its activities in the 2020 financial year.

This sum was made up of **Sixty Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, and Four Hundred and Sixty Three Cedis (GH¢ 60,657,463)** from GoG source and **Forty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred and Seven Ghana Cedis. (GH¢46,207.00)** from Development Partners Fund to enable it execute its mandate.

The allocation was disbursed among the three main expenditure items as follows:

Compensation of employee	- 52,641,043
Goods and Service	- 7,016,420
Capital Expenditure	- 1,000,000
Donor Fund	- 46,207
TOTAL	- 60,703,670

5.2 Table 1: BUDGET ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE REVIEW

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Item	2020 PROVISION (GH¢) A	REVISED BUDGET AS AT / /2020	AMOUNT RELEASED 31/12/2020 (GHC B	AMOUNT RECEIVED (GH¢) C	%Variance B-C
Compensation of Employees	52,641,043	53,641,043	51,354,726	51,322,577	0.1%
Goods and Services	7,016,420	17,016,420	8,487,388	8,188,002	3.5%
Capital Expenditure	1,000,000	1,000,000	9,482,759	9,454,710	0.3%
Donor Funds	46,207	46,207	46,207	46,207	0%
COVID 19 PARTNERS	2,000,000	2,000,000	12,322,619	10,621,552	13.8%
Total	62,703,670	73,703,670	81,693,699	79,633,048	17.66%

Committee noted in 2020 the commission received almost 82.34% or Ghc 79,633,048 of its appropriated budget.

Therefore, only 17.66% of total releases from the Ministry of Finance was not utilized.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2021

In furtherance of its mandate and stated objectives the NCCE will undertake the following activities among others in the 2021 financial year:

1. Organise sensitization programmes on the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP); E-Quiz competitions for SHSs; E-Quiz competitions among tertiary institutions (Civic Challenge); Project Citizens Show Cases in second cycle institutions.

2. Engage in programmes such as the Annual Constitution Week Celebration with the Security Services as well as engage the citizenry on the Arms of Government and Good Governance.
3. Undertake Child Protection education by organizing the Annual Citizenship Week Celebration in schools.
4. Promote civic education club activities in schools and organise quarterly dialogue on topics relevant to the Commission's mandate.
5. Undertake the Post-election community engagement activities on tolerance and peaceful coexistence; education on COVID-19 vaccine, on sanitation and good environmental practices; and community engagement on the duties of citizens as enshrined in Article 41 of the 1992 Constitution

6.1 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2021

For the implementation of its planned programs and activities, the National Commission on Civic Education has been allocated an amount of **Sixty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢68, 318,151 .00)** for its activities for the financial year 2021. This sum is made up of **Sixty-Eight Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Cedis (GH¢ 68,198,980)** from GoG source and **One Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy- One Ghana Cedis. (GH¢119,171 .00)** from Development Partners Fund.

This budgetary provision is to be disbursed among the four main expenditure items as follows:

Table 2: Disbursement of 2021 Budget Allocation

ITEM	BUDGET ALLOCATED (GH¢)
Compensation of employee	62,757,685

Goods and Service	4,291,295
Capital Expenditure	1,150,000
Develop Partners Fund	119,171
Total	68,318,151

For the Financial Year 2021, the budgetary allocation for the NCCE will be expended on two programs and seven sub programs as follows

Table 3: 2021 Allocation by Program and sub-program

S/N	Program	Sub Programmes	2021 allocation (GH¢)
1	Management and Administration	General Administration and Human Resource	18,209,128
		Finance	818,387
		Research, Gender and Equality	613,791
		Communication and Corporate Affairs	818,388
2	Civic Education	Constitutional Awareness Creation	18,658,046
		Deepening and Sustaining Civil Awareness	14,838,903
		Patriotism and Good Governance	14,361,508
Total			68,318,151

7.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee after a careful consideration of the Estimates of the National Commission on Civic Education, made the following observations:

7.1 Inadequate Budgetary Allocation.

The Chairperson of the Commission informed the Committee that the budgetary requirement of the Commission to meet essential capital need was not met in the year 2020 budget allocation.

The Commission therefore had to seek and was granted authorization by the Ministry of Finance for a virement of GH¢8.4 Million from Goods and Service for capital expenditure needs in the year under review. The amount was used to purchase vehicles for sensitization programs on Covid and the General Election.

The Committee again noted that in 2020 the Commission made projection for GH¢2,000,000 from other donor partners which was approved by the Ministry of Finance. The Commission however got a released of an additional sum GH¢10,621,552 from other donor support. The amount was expended on COVID 19 education and for the purchase of other tools such as personal Protective equipment (PPEs) which assisted the Commission in the fight against the Pandemic.

The Committee further noted that the Ministry of Finance allocated an amount of GH¢4,410,466 representing only 10.5% of the GH¢42,020,920 that is required by the Commissions for Goods and Services for the 2021 financial year.

The Chairperson of the NCCE informed the Committee that the Commission requires additional sum of **(GH¢7,166,000)** to sensitize the populace on COVID 19 Vaccine hesitancy in order to disabuse the minds of the populace on the numerous conspiracy theories against the COVID 19 vaccine which has currently pervaded the minds of many due to negative use of social media.

The Committee is of the view that the activities of the NCCE is very crucial at this time of our national life as there is the need to increase awareness, education and sensitization on COVID 19 hesitancy and de-stigmatization of citizens who have been infected by the Covid virus or have recovered from Covid 19.

The Committee therefore wish to urge the Ministry of Finance to consider providing additional resource to the Commission to enable it meet its expenditure requirements on Goods and Services.

7.2 Lack of Adequate Resources to Meet Logistics Requirements

The Commission informed the Committee about the lack of adequate logistics for effective discharge of its duties and expressed the urgent need to augment the fleet of vehicles currently being used by the Commission across the country as well as other logistics for efficient delivery of civic education.

The Commission stated that each Regional and District offices require Pick-ups mounted with Public Address System, Cross Country Vehicles, Motor bikes and Mobile Public Address Systems for civic education purposes, especially so in the hinterlands. Computers and Accessories as well as office Furniture amongst others are needed to furnish offices across the country for efficient and effective service delivery.

The Commission informed the Committee that its official sometimes rely on some District Assemblies for use of vehicles and this sometimes lead to mistrust between the Commission and some communities as their usage of Assembly vehicles does not engender confidence and trust in their information dissemination as some members of the community see the Commission as part or agents of the Assembly as some Assembly officials sometimes unlawfully use the same Assembly vehicles to attend political party functions and rallies.

The Committee therefore noted with worry that out of a budgetary request of **GH¢21,259,600** for CAPEX in 2021 only **GH¢1,150,000** was approved.

The Committee noted that NCCE requires additional capital expenditure allocation of GH¢21,259,600 to acquire the following logistics to augment their operation needs.

Table 4 below is a summary of the urgent operational needs of the Commission.

Table 4. Operational Requirements Budget

S/No	ITEM NEEDED	Quantity	UNIT PRICE GH¢	BUDGET GH¢
1	Pickups mounted with PAs	50	220,000	11,000,000
2	Cross Country Vehicle	16	425,600	6,809,600
3	Office Furniture	250	2,400	600,000
4	Office Building	1	1,000,000	1,000,000
5	Computers /Accessories	200	3,500	700,000
6	Motor Bikes	50	17,000	850,000
	TOTAL CAPEX REQUIRED			20,959,600

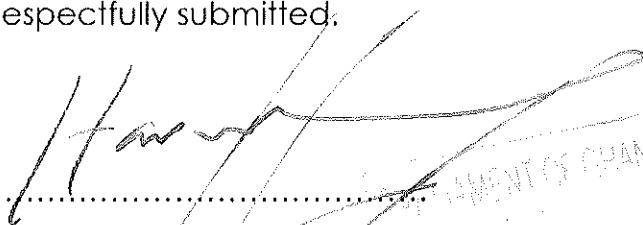
The Committee is of the view that considering the NCCE role in civic education and awareness creation amongst citizenry, coupled with the need to intensify

public education on the upsurge of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Ministry of Finance should relook at the CAPEX of the Commission in the event of Mid-year review of the 2021 Budget.

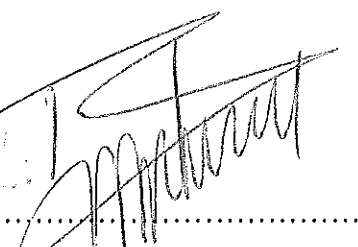
CONCLUSION

Considering the importance of the NCCE in delivering civic education to all Ghanaians and the need to educate the public to mitigate COVID19 vaccine hesitancy and protocols, the Committee recommends that the House adopts its Report and approves the sum of **Sixty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-One Ghana Cedis (GH¢68, 318,151 .00)** to enable the National Commission on Civic Education implement its programs and activities for the financial year ending 31st December 2021.

Respectfully submitted.



.....
HON. HARUNA IDDIRISU
MINORITY LEADER AND VICE CHAIRMAN,
(SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)



.....
INUSAH MOHAMMED
CLERK TO
SPECIAL BUEDGET COMMIT

FOR : HON. KYEI-MENSAH BONSU
THE CHAIRMAN

MARCH 2021