

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

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

ON THE

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**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

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**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF
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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON THE
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Technical Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was presented to Parliament by the Hon Minister for Education, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, and read the first time on Monday, 30th March, 2020.

In accordance with Article 106 (4) and (5) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 186 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Hon. First Deputy Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Education for consideration and report.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee was assisted in its deliberations by the Hon Minister of State in charge of Tertiary Education, Professor Kwesi Yankah and officials of the Ministry of Education.

The Committee is grateful to the Hon. Minister and the technical team for their inputs and assistance.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee availed itself of the following additional documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana;

- iii. The Technical Universities Act, 2016 (Act 922);
- iv. The National Council for Tertiary Education Act, 1993 (Act 454);
and
- v. The Technical Universities (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Act 974).

4.0 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Technical Universities Act, 2016 (Act 922), was passed in 2016. The Act converted six (6) Polytechnics (Accra, Ho, Koforidua, Kumasi, Sunyani and Takoradi) that satisfied the requirements for the conversion of a polytechnic to a technical universities.

The Act provided that the remaining polytechnics, upon meeting the requirements could also be converted to technical universities, by amending the Second Schedule of Act 922.

Pursuant to this provision, the Second Schedule of the Technical Universities Act, 2016, was amended to convert the Cape Coast and Tamale Polytechnics into Technical Universities in 2018 which culminated into the passage of the Technical Universities (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Act 974).

Having met the requirements for conversion stipulated under Act 922, the Government granted approval for the remaining two polytechnics, (the Bolgatanga and Wa Polytechnics) to be converted to Technical Universities. The Technical Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, is therefore intended to provide the legal framework for the conversion of Wa and Bolgatanga Polytechnics to Technical Universities.

5.0 **OBJECT OF THE BILL**

The objective of the Bill is to further amend the Second Schedule of the Technical University Act, 2016 (Act 922) to convert the Bolgatanga and the Wa Polytechnics into Technical Universities.

6.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

- 6.1 Clause 1 amends section 2 of Act 922 by providing for the requirements for the establishment of a Technical University.
- 6.2 Clause 2 amends section 40 of Act 922 by omitting from the scope of matters in respect of which the Minister may make Regulations under Act 922, the amendment of First Schedule to provide for the conversion of a qualified polytechnic to a technical university. The clause also provides for the Minister to make Regulations to amend the Second Schedule in respect of the requirements for the establishment of Technical Universities instead of the requirement for the conversion of a polytechnic to a Technical University.
- 6.3 The First Schedule of Act 922 is amended in clause 3 by the addition of Bolgatanga Polytechnic and Wa Polytechnic as part of the institutions specified in the First Schedule as Technical Universities.
- 6.4 Lastly, Clause 4 amends the Second Schedule to provide for the requirements for the establishment of Technical Universities.

7.0 OBSERVATIONS

7.1 Conversion Criteria

The Committee was informed that the two remaining polytechnics (Bolgatanga and Wa Polytechnics) have now met the criteria for conversion to technical university.

This means that they currently satisfy the existing norms, guidelines and requirements of the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) and the National Accreditation Board to offer a minimum of four-year Bachelor of Technology degree programmes in science and technology based disciplines.

Regarding academic staff requirements, the Committee learnt that academic departments of the two institutions are headed by Senior Lecturers, with a minimum of a PhD and professional experience; and have at least three full-time lecturers, with relevant research master's degree, at least one of whom has industry experience. The Committee also learnt that the two institutions have also established the needed collaboration with the relevant industry partners.

The Committee was happy to note that the two institutions have satisfied the requirements and urges the respective Councils to ensure that they focus on their core mandate by adhering to the Technical Universities concept which advocates a strong linkage between technical/vocational education and industry.

7.2 Requirement for Establishment

The Committee observed that this Amendment Bill, 2020, effectively ends the cycle for converting polytechnics into Technical Universities. However, in order to cater for the possible establishment of new technical universities in the future, particularly, with the creation of six (6) additional regions, the Second Schedule has been amended to translate same (section 2) to requirements for the establishment of a technical university.

8.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

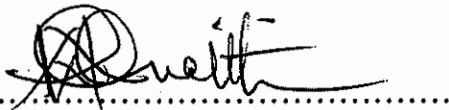
The Committee, after a clause-by-clause examination of the Bill, proposes the amendments in the attached Appendix for consideration and adoption by the House.

9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

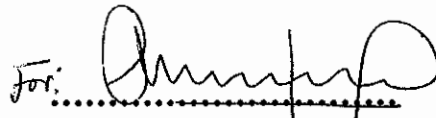
The conversion of the remaining two polytechnics to technical universities through the amendment of the relevant schedule, will give full and practical meaning to the Technical Universities Act, 2016 (Act 922). The passage of the Act will ensure that government's objective of upgrading technical education to the university level to promote entrepreneurship and industrialisation is achieved.

The Committee on Education therefore recommends that the House adopts its report and pass the Technical Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 into law.

Respectfully submitted.



**WILLIAM AGYAPONG QUAITTOO (HON.)
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION)**

For: 

**ABIGAIL ABAJANSO
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)**

APRIL 2020

APPENDIX

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- i. **Clause 1** – Amendment proposed – Sub- section 2, line 3, after “Board” insert “*or any other body responsible for regulating tertiary education*”
- ii. **Clause 1** – Amendment proposed – Sub-section 2 (b), after “effective” insert “*and efficient*”
- iii. **Second Schedule**– Amendment proposed – Sub-section 1 (a), line 3, after “Board” insert “*or any other body responsible for regulating tertiary education*”.