



The Committee held zonal public sittings on the Report at Tamale, Sunyani, Ho and Takoradi and was assisted in its work by the relevant officials of the institutions that were audited and cited in the Report.

All witnesses who appeared before the Committee took the Oath of a Witness and answered questions relating to the issues/queries raised by the Auditor-General in his Report and on related issues of general public interest.

### **2.1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Director, Internal Audit of Ghana Education Service (GES), Rev. Bismark Akandi, Regional and District Directors of Education, Officials from the Ghana Education Service (GES), Heads and other officials of all Pre-University Educational Institutions cited in the report for attending upon and assisting the committee during the examination of the Report.

The Committee also extends its profound gratitude to the media and the general public for their keen interest in the public sittings of the Committee in particular and parliamentary business in general.

The Committee is equally grateful to the Ghana Audit Service for the immense assistance in attending upon and assisting the Committee in the examination of the instant report.

### **3.0. REFERENCE**

The Committee was guided in its deliberations by the following documents, among others:

- i. The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana
- iii. The Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921)
- iv. The Public Procurement Act 2003 (Act 663)
- v. The Audit Service Act, 2000 (Act 584)
- vi. The Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658)
- vii. The Income Tax Act 2015 (Act 896)
- viii. The Value Added Tax Act, 2013 (Act 870)
- ix. The Public Financial Management Regulation, 2019 (LI 2378) (PFMR)
- x. The Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 914)
- xi. The Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana (Pre-University Educational Institutions) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020
- xii. The Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana (Pre-University Educational Institutions) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021

#### **4.0. PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT**

The Audit was undertaken in accordance with article 187 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana which mandates the Auditor-General to audit the Public Accounts of Ghana and all

public offices, institutions, and organisations and report to Parliament.

The purpose of the audit was for the Auditor-General to express his opinion on whether:

- a. the accounts of the Pre-University Educational Institutions had been properly kept;
- b. all public monies collected had been fully accounted for and the applicable rules, regulations and procedures are sufficient to provide an effective check on the assessment, collection and proper allocation of revenue;
- c. monies had been spent for the purpose for which they were appropriated and expenditures made as authorised;
- d. essential records were maintained and applicable rules and procedures applied were sufficient to safeguard and control the assets of the institutions;
- e. financial activities of the institutions had been undertaken with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness; and
- f. the financial statements of the institutions give a true and fair view of their financial positions as at the end of the year.

## **5.0. METHODOLOGY**

The Committee in considering the Report received written submissions, including the Status Reports on the implementation

of the recommendations of the Auditor-General, from the officials of all the Institutions cited by the Auditor-General.

Again, all the witnesses who appeared before the Committee subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and answered questions relating to the issues/queries raised by the Auditor-General in his Report and other related matters of general public interest.

## **6.0. SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS**

The findings of the Auditor-General related to Irregularities on Cash, Procurement/Stores, Tax, Payroll and Contracts. The overall impact of the Irregularities amounted to **GH¢18,457,644.29** compared to **GH¢41,778,465.97** in 2020.

The Committee noted that the irregularities discovered by the Auditor-General decreased from GH¢41,778,465.97 in 2020 to GH¢18,457,644.29 in 2021 representing **55.82%** decrease.

The detailed analysis of the 2019 and 2020 irregularities are presented in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: An Analysis of 2020 and 2021 Irregularities**

<b>No</b>	<b>Type of Irregularities</b>	<b>2020 (GH¢ Million)</b>	<b>2021 (GH¢ Million)</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Cash	13,352,792.21	2,287,403.83	(11,065,388.38)	(82.87)

2.	Stores/Procurement	13,246,146.53	1,144,473.26	(12,101,673.27)	(28.97)
3.	Payroll	688,955.46	731,686.05	42,730.59	0.10
4.	Tax	376,495.25	274,731.62	(101,763.63)	(0.24)
5.	Contract	14,114,076.52	14,019,349.53	(94,726.99)	(0.23)
6.	<b>Total</b>	<b>41,778,465.97</b>	<b>18,457,644.29</b>	<b>(23,320,821.68)</b>	<b>(55.82)</b>

## **7.0. UNDERSTATEMENT OF TOTAL IRREGULARITIES**

The Committee observed that the total value of Irregularities recorded in the Report was understated by GH¢2,162,331.44, thereby increasing the total infractions from GH¢18,457,644.29 to GH¢20,619,975.73 as stated in the Auditor-General's Report.

The errors affected the value of Irregularities regarding Cash, Payroll and Stores/Procurement.

The discrepancies are in the following areas:

**Table 2: Breakdown of Values Understated in the Report**

No.	Region/ Institution	Nature of Irregularity	Value of Irregularity (GH¢)	Actual Value of Irregularity (GH¢)	Discrepancy (GH¢)
1.	Jukwa SHS (Central Region)	Uncollected Rent	5,700	0.00	5,700
2.	OLA Training College (Central Region)	Unaccounted Fund	120,174.41	0.00	120,174.41
4.	Nsaba Presby SHS (Central Region)	Unearned Salary	16,801.73	10,932.65	5,869.08
5.	Gomoa SHTS (Central Region)	Unearned Salary	5,619.22	2,809.00	2,810.22
6.	Kpone Community SHS (Greater Accra)	Unrecovered Rent	18,900	16,300	2,600
7.	Zorkor SHS (Upper East)	Unearned Salary	11,104.48	0.00	11,104.48

8.	Awe SHTS (Upper East)	Unearned Salary	2,830.25	0.00	2,830.25
9.	Nsawora Edumafua Community SHS	Unrecovered Rent	7,340.00	4,285.00	3,055.00
10.	<b>Uncompetitive Procurement</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,316,474.88</b>	<b>(2,316,474.88)</b>
11.	<b>Total</b>		<b>188,470.09</b>	<b>2,350,801.53</b>	<b>(2,162,331.44)</b>

The Committee further observed that the Auditor-General did not include the value of the Uncompetitive Procurement in the total value of Stores/Procurement Irregularities recorded, thereby understating the overall infractions reported.

The adjusted values of the Irregularities are as follows:

**Table 3: Adjusted Irregularities**

No.	Type of Irregularity	Value per Irregularity (GH¢) Million	Discrepancy (GH¢)	Adjusted Irregularities (GH¢)
1.	Cash	2,287,403.83	131,529.41	2,155,874.42
2.	Payroll	731,686.05	22,614.03	709,072.02
3.	Contract	14,019,349.53	0.00	14,019,349.53
4.	Procurement/Stores	1,144,473.26	(2,316,474.88)	3,460,948.14
5.	Tax	274,731.62	0.00	274,731.62
6.	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,457,644.29</b>	<b>(2,162,331.44)</b>	<b>20,619,975.73</b>

### **7.1. STATUS OF 2021 IRREGULARITIES**

The Committee noted that many of the Institutions had complied with most of the recommendations of the Auditor-General in respect of the irregularities cited against them.

The Committee therefore observed that, a total amount of **GH¢18,789,932.60** out of a total infraction of **GH¢20,619,975.73** had been resolved leaving a balance of **GH¢1,830,043.13** unresolved.

It is worth noting that many of the Irregularities were resolved when the Institutions concerned were summoned to appear before the Public Accounts Committee.

The detailed analysis of the status of the 2021 irregularities is presented in the following table:

**Table 4: Status of 2021 Irregularities**

No.	Type of Irregularity	2021 Irregularities (GH¢)	Irregularities Resolved (GH¢)	Outstanding (GH¢)	% Resolved
1.	Cash	2,155,874.42	1,689,687.10	466,187.32	78.37
2.	Payroll	709,072.02	312,156.05	396,915.97	44.02
3.	Contract	14,019,349.53	14,019,349.53	0.00	100
4.	Procurement/ Stores	3,460,948.14	2,523,443.46	937,504.68	72.91
5.	Tax	274,731.62	245,296.46	29,435.16	89.26
<b>6.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,619,975.73</b>	<b>18,789,932.60</b>	<b>1,830,043.13</b>	<b>91.12</b>

## **8.0. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.1. Delayed Projects or Abandoned Projects**

Section 52 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016, (Act 921) provides among others that, a Principal Spending Officer of a covered entity, state-owned enterprise or public corporation shall be responsible for the assets of the institution under the care of



the Principal Spending Officer and shall ensure that proper control systems exist for the custody and management of the assets. A control system specified in subsection (1) shall be capable of ensuring that preventive mechanisms are in place to eliminate theft, loss, wastage and misuse.

The Audit disclosed that some GETFund projects and other special funded projects under construction in 12 regions of the country had been stalled, delayed or abandoned for periods up to 14 years, mainly due to lack of funds.

The Auditor-General recommended to Management of the institutions to pursue the funding sources for the completion of the projects to ensure funds already spent on the projects are not wasted.

The Committee noted that 12 projects have been completed and put to use leaving the following projects outstanding in the specified schools:

**Table 5: Outstanding Abandoned/Delayed Projects**

No.	Name of School	Project Description
1.	Salvation Army SHS, Aboabo-Dormaa	2 Storey 12 Unit Classroom Block
2.	Our Lady of Providence Girls SHS, Drobo	School Dining Hall/Kitchen
3.	St. Francis Seminary SHS, Buoyem	- 1 No. 2-Storey 12 Unit Classroom Block - 1 No. 2-Storey Dormitory Block
4.	Mount Carmel Girls SHS, Techiman	- Kitchen/Dining Hall - 1 No. 2-Storey Domitary Block

5.	Guakro Effah SHS, Offuman	Single Storey Girls' Dormitory Dining Hall/Kitchen Complex
6.	Tuobodom Senior High Technical School	Assembly Hall
7.	Busanya Senior High School	12-Seater Toilet Facility and Teachers Bungalow
8.	Ejuraman Anglican Senior High School	4 Projects
9.	Adanwomase Senior High School	3Projects
10.	Adventist Girls SHS, Ntoso	4 Projects
11.	Asare Bediako SHS, Obuasi	2 Projects
12.	Esaase Bontefufuo SHTS	4 Projects
13.	Gyamaa Pengan SHTS	2 Projects
14.	Kofi Agyei SHTS, Boanim	3 Projects
15.	Mankranso SHTS	1 Project
16.	Tuna Secondary High Technical School	2 Dining Hall Complex Administration Block 1-Storey Girls' Dormitory Block
17.	T. I Ahmadiyya SHS, Salaga	- 1No. 4-Unit Classroom Block /Offices and other ancillary Facilities - 1No. 5-Unit Classroom Bock
18.	Sandema Senior High Technical School	- School Fence Wall - Assembly Hall Complex - 6-Unit Classroom Block - Single Story Dormitory Block -3 No. Semi-Detached Teachers Quarters -2No. 6-Unit Classroom Block
19.	Bolgatanga Girls' Senior High School	Single-Storey Dormitory Block

20.	Navrongo Senior High School	2-Storey Girls Dormitory Block
21.	Fumbisi Senior High School	- 6 Unit 3 Bedroom Flat - 2-Unit Semi-Detached Staff Quarter
22.	Islamic Senior High School	3 Projects
23.	Kaleo Senior High Technical School	2 Projects
24.	St. Basillide's Vocational Technical Institute	1 Project
25.	T I Ahmadiyya Senior High School, Wa	2 Projects
26.	Wa Technical Institute	1 Project
27.	Hilla Limann Senior High School	2 Projects
28.	Lawra Senior High School	1 Project
29.	Nusrat Ahmadiyya College of Education	- Boy's Hostel - 3-Storey Classroom with Ancillary Facility
30.	Akim Sekyere SDA Senior High School	Toilet Facility
31.	New Nsutam Senior High Technical School	- Fence Wall - 2 No. 4-Unit 2-Bedroom Teachers' Quarters
31.	Koforidua Senior High Technical School	1 Storey Dormitory Block Science Lab
32.	Akim Swedru Senior High School	2 Storey Girls' Dormitory
33.	Abutia Senior High School	7 Projects
34.	Peki Senior High Technical School	4 Projects
35.	Tongor Senior High School	12 Projects
38.	Anfoega Senior High School	2 Projects
37.	Kpedze Senior High School	4 Projects
38.	Ahantaman Girls' Senior High School	12-Unit Classroom Block

The Committee observed that the long delay in the completion of the projects is causing cost escalation whilst depriving the beneficiary institutions of the use of the projects.

The Committee therefore, recommends that as a matter of urgency, GETFund Secretariat should do a comprehensive assessment of all the stalled/delayed/abandoned projects across the country and to take steps to complete before awarding new contracts.

## **8.2. Unearned Salaries - GH¢731,686.05**

The Audit disclosed that Management of 50 institutions paid unearned salaries of GH¢662,046.32 to separated staff in contravention of Regulation 92 (L.I. 2378) of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019.

It was further disclosed that 6 institutions overpaid their staff to a tune of GH¢69,639.73

The Auditor-General recommended that the Heads of the Institutions and the salary validators should refund the amount into the Government Salary Suspense Account, if the unearned and overpaid salaries could not be recovered from the beneficiaries or the next of kin of the separated staff.

The Committee noted that an amount of GH¢547,796.93 has since been recovered, leaving an outstanding balance of GH¢183,889.12 in the name of the following institutions:

**Table 6: Outstanding Unearned Salaries**

No.	INSTITUTION	NAME OF DEBTOR	AMOUNT (GH¢)	RESOLVE D (GH¢)	OUTSTANDING (GH¢)
1.	Manso Adubia SHS	Jibril Mariam	8,209.29	5,988	2,221.29
2.		Yeboah Clement	4,109.20	1,500	2,609.20
3.		Prince Afranie	7,545.69	6,065	1,480.69
4.	Nsaba Presby SHS		10,932.65	6,995.75	3,936.90
5.	Ogyeedom Community SHTS		12,188.53	2,500	9,688.53
6.	Fetteyman		19,140.36	6,800	12,340.36
7.	Dunkwa SHS		41,471.29	800	40,671.29
8.	Pope John SHS & Minor Seminary		13,685.00	6,509	7,176.00
9.	Accra High Senior High School		11,717.30	8,000	3,717.30
10.	Tamale Senior High School	Mr Kenneth Boakye Osei	17,407.88	0.00	17,407.88
11.	Yabram Community SHS	Kofi Nkeasen	16,283.70	0.00	16,283.70
12.	Salaga SHS	Kofi Sey	3,096.15	2,300	796.15
13.	T.I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School	Alfred A. Akologo	68,303.90	13,500	54,803.90
14.	Tumu SHTS	Bagei Amoro Abdulai	12,245.00	6,287.84	5,957.16
15.	Sogakope SHS	David Ayensu	2,486.84	0.00	2,486.84
		Obonsey Simon Apreko	2,311.93	0.00	2,311.93
<b>16.</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>251,134.71</b>	<b>67,245.59</b>	<b>183,889.12</b>

For the overpaid salary, an amount of GH¢65,704.64 has been recovered, leaving a balance of GH¢3,935.09 in the name of **Eric Eyison** from **Methodist Day Senior High School** who has promised to pay in three (3) installments:

The Committee urges Management of the affected institutions to put a system in place to check separated staff and also notify Controller and Accountant-General's Department on time to effect changes to reduce the phenomenon of unearned salaries.

Again, Management should pursue the recovery of the outstanding amount, failing which the salary validators should be held liable to refund the unrecovered amounts.

### **8.3. Uncollected/Outstanding Rent - GH¢426,514.14**

The Audit discovered that Management of 47 Institutions failed to collect rent due amounting to GH¢426,514.14 in contravention of Regulation 46 of the Public Financial Management regulations, 2019 (LI 2378).

The Auditor-General recommended to the heads and accountants of the institutions to take the necessary action to immediately recover the outstanding rent from the defaulting tenants.

The Committee observed that an amount of GH¢381,012.14 has been recovered, leaving an outstanding amount of GH¢45,502 standing in the names of the following Institutions:

<b>NAME OF INSTITUTION</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (GH¢)</b>
Our Lady of Fatima	- 3,100.00
Nursing and Midwifery College, Praso	- 13,755.00
Tema SHS	- 23,992.00
Kpone Community SHS	- 3,590.00
Nsawora Edumafuaa Community SHS	- 1,065.00
<b>Total</b>	- <b><u>45,502.00</u></b>

The Committee recommends to management of the institutions to deduct the outstanding rent from the salaries of the defaulters at source.

The Committee further recommends to the Ghana Education Service (GES) to liaise with the Ministry of Finance to standardize the payment of rent by staff occupying residential facilities of GES-run educational institutions.

In doing so, special consideration should be given to headmasters and housemasters whose presence in bungalows is needed for the care and discipline of students.

#### **8.4. Outstanding Salary/Staff Advances**

Contrary to Regulation 46 of the Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378) the Management of 13 institutions failed to recover outstanding salary advances amounting to GH¢264,591.86.

The Auditor-General recommended to Management of the affected institutions to recover the outstanding advances from the affected staff and further institute measures to strengthen the rate of recovery of advances granted.

The Committee observed that a total amount of GH¢55,500.10 has been recovered, leaving an outstanding amount of GH¢209,091.76 in the name of the following six (6) schools:

**Table 7: Outstanding Salary/Staff Advance**

<b>NAME OF INSTITUTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (GH¢)</b>	<b>RESOLVED (GH¢)</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (GH¢)</b>
Komenda College of Education, Komenda	93,155.76	0.00	93,155.76
Our Lady of Fatima, Sampa – Bono Region	1,794.00	1,204.00	590.00
McCoy College of Education, Nadowli	95,691.00	0.00	95,691.00
Nursing and Midwifery College, Praso	7,800.00	0.00	7,800.00
College of Community Health Nurses Training, Winneba	9,755.00	0.00	9,755.00
OLA Training College, Cape Coast	24,180.00	22,080.00	2,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>232,375.76</b>	<b>23,284.00</b>	<b>209,091.76</b>

The Committee recommended to the Management of the above institutions to put in place effective measures to fully recover the outstanding amounts from the defaulters.



### 8.5. Inability to Access Funds at Bank - GH¢326,775.02

The Audit revealed that five schools could not access funds amounting to GH¢326,775.02 in their respective bank accounts contrary to section 7 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

The Auditor-General recommended to management of the five (5) schools to notify the Regulators, that is, Bank of Ghana and Apex Bank to prevail on the banks to enable the schools access their funds.

The Committee noted that an amount of GH¢42,800 has since been recovered, leaving an outstanding amount of GH¢283,975.02. The breakdown is as follows:

**Table 8: Locked Up Funds in Banks**

<b>NAME OF INSTITUTION</b>	<b>BANK</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>
Community Development Vocational Training Institute, Panfokrom	GN Bank, Potsin Branch	4,000	0.00	4,000.00
Ekumfi T. I Ahmadiyya SHS	Ekumfiman Rural Bank	44,246.43	41,000	3,246.43
National Vocation Training Institute, Biriwa	Mfantseman Community Bank	157,175.75	0.00	157,175.75
Senya Senior High School	Union Rural Bank	12,800.48	1,800	11,000.48
Holy Family Senior High School, Hamile	GN Bank, Nandom	108,552.36	0.00	108,552.36
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>326,775.02</b>	<b>42,800</b>	<b>283,975.02</b>

The Committee recommends that the Ghana Education Service (GES) assists the affected institutions to deal with ARB Apex Bank and Bank of Ghana to cause the defaulting banks that are still in operation to pay back the funds of the affected institutions.

In the case of those that may be under receivership, the Heads of the affected institutions should make the necessary claims to the Receiver for the recovery of the locked-up funds.

#### **8.6. Unremitted Tax - GH¢202, 434.14**

In the year under review, Management of twelve (12) schools failed to remit withheld taxes totaling GH¢202,434.14 to Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) contrary section 117 of the Income Tax Act, 2015 (Act 896).

The Auditor-General recommended that, the Headmasters and Accountants of these institutions should comply with tax laws by paying the taxes to Ghana Revenue Authority to avoid penalty charges. It was further recommended that the accountants should be held liable for any penalty payment.

The Committee however, noted that an amount of GH¢172,998.98 has been remitted, leaving an amount of GH¢29,435.16 in the name of Ghana National College. The Committee recommends that management of Ghana National College pays the withheld taxes forthwith without any further delay, failing which the headmaster and accountant of the school should be prosecuted under the relevant enactment.

## **8.7. Encroachment on School Land and No Title Deeds to School Lands**

The Audit inspection of the immovable property of pre-university educational institutions across the country indicated that 13 acres out of 33-acre land of the *Koase SHS* was under litigation and at risk of being encroached by private developers.

It was further noted that 18 other institutions also did not have title to their lands and/or had portions of their lands encroached by private developers. In order to avoid disputes and legal tussles, the Auditor-General recommended to the heads of the schools to seek assistance from the Ghana Education Service to obtain title deeds from the appropriate authorities and also fence the lands to secure them.

Management of the schools disclosed to the Committee that preparations are underway to start the process of registering the lands.

The Committee noted that there was confusion as to whether the lands should be registered in the names of the individual schools or in the name of the Ghana Education Service (GES) and who should foot the bill for the surveying and registration exercise.

The Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency, the Ghana Education Service (GES) should come up with a policy on the acquisition, ownership and management of school lands in the country.

The Committee however, appeals to the District Assemblies and the Traditional Authorities to assist schools within their jurisdiction to secure and protect the school lands.

Below is a list of affected schools having no title deeds to their lands:

1. Tuobodom Senior High Technical School, Techman North District
2. Gyarko Community Day Senior High School, Tachiman, Bono East
3. Krobo Senior High School, Lower Manya Krobo
4. Awutu Bontrase Senior High School, Awutu Senya, Central Region
5. Assin Manso Senior High School, Assin Manso, Central Region
6. Moree Senior High School, Moree, Central Region
7. Besease Senior High School, Besease, Central Region
8. St. Gregory Catholic Senior High School, Buduburam
9. National Vocation Training Institute-Biriwa
10. Gomoa Senior High School, Goam West District
11. College of Music Senior High School, Mozano
12. Diaspora Senior High School, Odoban-Nsawam
13. Social Welfare Vocational Technical Centre, Koforidua
14. Bowire Community Senior High Technical School
15. Bueman Senior High School, Jasikan
16. Nsein Senior High School, Nsein Axim
17. Nkroful Agricultural Senior High School, Nkroful
18. Kikam Technical Institute, Ellembelle

## **8.8. Litigation resulting from Indebtedness**

Contrary to Section 7 of the PFM Act, 2016 (Act 921), the Audit noted that between 2012 and 2018, **Swedru School of Business** was indebted to the tune of GH¢1,539,609.47 to suppliers which resulted in legal actions by some suppliers against the school.

The situation has reduced the creditworthiness of the school and also threatens its smooth operations.

The Auditor-General recommended to management and the school's governing body to treat the matter with urgency and engage the Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service to settle the liability to avert possible seizure of school property or payment of judgement debt.

The Committee noted that the issue was still outstanding. The School Management disclosed that they had correspondence through Ghana Education Service to Ministry of Education for assistance and yet had not received any response.

The Committee recommends to the Director-General of GES to treat the issue as urgent and take immediate action to avoid a possible seizure and sale of the school's movable and immovable property to satisfy the judgment debt.

## **8.9. Shortfall in Supply of Food Items**

Contrary to Regulation 79 of the PFM Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378), it was noted that foodstuffs supplied to 83 schools by suppliers from the National Buffer Stock Company (NBSC) fell short of the required kilograms stated on the waybills, resulting in undersupply of the items.

The Auditor-General noted that the shortfall in supply of food items could result in overpayment to the suppliers and also students would be underfed.

The Auditor-General recommended that the Heads of the affected schools should report the shortfalls to the NBSC and the Free SHS Secretariat for the necessary remedial action.

The Committee observed that no action had been taken by Management of the following schools concerning the shortfall in supply.

1. Savior SHS, Osiem
2. Abuakwa State College, Abuakwa
3. Pope Johns' Senior High School, Koforidua
4. 79 Schools in Ashanti Region
5. West Africa Senior High School, Adenta
6. Nana Brentu Senior High Technical School, enchi

The Committee recommends to the Auditor-General to consider conducting a performance audit into the supply of food items to schools by the National Buffer Stock Company.

#### **8.10. Outstanding Indebtedness of Ms. Grace Agbenye to Ashiaman Technical Institute - GH¢166,710.30**

Contrary to Regulation 32 of the PFM Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378), it was noted that Ms. Grace Agbenye, a former Accountant of Ashiaman Technical Institute, had refunded only GH¢11,000.00 out of her indebtedness of GH¢177,710.30 to the school though she signed an MoU to repay the amount. The delay in recovery of the amount denied the school of funds for smooth running of its operations.

Management responded to the audit finding by stating that the matter had been reported to the Tema Harbour Police to help retrieve the amount. Management added that though the former Accountant paid an amount of GH¢21,000.00 to Chief Inspector Adu Boahen of Tema Harbour Police, only GH¢11,000.00 was paid to the school. The principal of the school however, had written via letter number GES/GAR/ASHTECH/AUDOT/VOL. 1/15 of 24 September 2021 to the Harbour Police for recovery of the outstanding balance of GH¢10,000.00 but had received no response.

The Auditor-General recommended that Management of the School should pursue recovery of the outstanding balance of GH¢166,710.00 from Ms. Grace Agbenye and the Harbour Police.

The Committee was informed that the school has still not retrieve the amount of GH¢10,000.00 from the Harbour Police. On the other hand, Ms. Grace Agbenye has paid GH¢30,000 and has further agreed to pay GH¢500.00 every month as she is currently

on retirement. However, an amount of GH¢136,710.30 remains outstanding in the name of Ms. Agbenye.

The Committee recommends to Management of the school to review the payment plan as the monthly instalment amount of GH¢500.00 is insignificant in the circumstance of this case.

#### **8.11. Unlawful Occupancy of Achimota School bungalows**

Contrary to Section 52 of the PFM Act, 2016 (Act 921), the Audit noted that 11 staff who no longer belonged to Achimota Basic School continued to occupy the school bungalows denying deserving staff access to decent accommodation at the school.

The Auditor-General recommended that management of the schools should take the necessary action, including legal means, to regain the bungalows for reallocation to deserving staff.

The Committee noted that two (2) out of the 11 occupants have vacated the property, five (5) of them have their cases determined by the courts in favour of the school but yet to vacate the bungalows and the cases of the remaining four (4) are still pending in court.

The Committee therefore recommends that management takes immediate steps to reallocate the 2 available bungalows to deserving staff and to take effective steps to evict the 5 whose cases have been determined in favour of the school.



### **8.12. Payment for Clothing and Recommended Textbooks by Students not supplied - GH¢281,704.50**

The audit noted that during the year 2020/2021, Management of McCoy College of Education collected fees amounting to GH¢281,704.50 from 562 students for the supply of clothing and recommended textbooks in line with section 'E' of the fees schedule.

It was further observed that as at the time of the 2021 audit, the items had not been supplied to the students and this situation may result in students' agitations which may affect teaching and learning.

The Auditor-General recommended to management to ensure that the items are supplied to the students without further delay.

The Committee was informed that the clothing component which amounts to GH¢160,000 has been supplied, leaving a balance of GH¢121,704.50 for textbooks which remains unsupplied.

The Committee recommends that Management of McCoy College of Education liaises with GES in dealing with the supplier to ensure immediate supply of the textbooks to enhance teaching and learning in the College.

### **8.13. Unapproved and Uneconomic Distance Learning Agreement with University of Cape Coast**

Contrary to Regulation 157 of the PFM Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378), it was revealed that four (4) Schools namely, **Fijai SHS,**

**Nsein SHS, St. John's SHS in Sekondi and Holy Child College,** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and rented out their classroom blocks to the University of Cape Coast (UCC) for its Distance Learning Programme since 2014 without the prior written approval of the Minister.

The Audit however, noted that the Memoranda of MoU signed on behalf of the schools by the Heads, entitled the University to pay only GH¢20.00 a day for the use of the classrooms and utilities on Saturdays and Sundays, which the audit found to be uneconomical and could result in excessive maintenance and high utility costs for the institutions.

The Auditor-General recommended that the Boards of the Schools should adhere to the existing Laws on rental of school facilities and also review the current MoU to ensure that the terms and conditions of the Agreement reflects the prevailing market prices.

The Committee noted that the rates were yet to be reviewed upwards as recommended by the Auditor-General, even though discussions are on-going between the Management of the schools and their counterparts from the University of Cape Coast.

The Committee recommends that as a matter of urgency, Management of GES and the schools involved should review the rates charged to reflect current economic realities and also seek the required approvals in accordance with law.

#### **8.14. Missing Items - GH¢21,115.00**

The Audit disclosed that contrary to Section 52(1) of the PFM Act, 2016 (Act 921), three (3) institutions could not produce 43 laptops and electrical items with estimated value of GH¢21,115.00 for audit inspection. The Auditors also could not sight any Police Reports from the institutions to ascertain the actions taken for the losses to be investigated.

The situation led to loss of school property which could affect teaching and learning.

The Auditor-General recommended to Management of the institutions to account for the missing items or refund the amount of GH¢21,115.00.

The Committee observed that two (2) of the schools have fully recovered their portions of the infractions totaling GH¢7,115 leaving a balance of GH¢14,000 in the name of Sefwi Wiawso Senior High School.

The Committee was informed that management of Sefwi Wiawso Senior High School has initiated investigative processes into the 40 missing laptops.

The Committee recommends to Management to pursue the investigation to its logical conclusion and any person found culpable punished in accordance with law.

#### **8.15. Unreturned Textbooks and Calculators by Students**

In Contravention to Section 51(2) of the PFM Act 2016, (Act 921), the Audit revealed that students of 39 institutions did not return

various teaching and learning materials in the nature of Textbooks and Calculators worth GH¢1,014,973.00 after completion of their programmes.

The practice could deny other students access to the books and calculators if unchecked and as a result impact negatively on teaching and learning.

The Auditor-General recommended to Management of the schools to retrieve the books and calculators or recover their value from the defaulting students before their WASSCE certificates are issued to them, failing which the officials whose inaction resulted in the loss should be held responsible for replacement or refund the cost of the textbooks and calculators.

The Committee noted that 3,898 textbooks and 425 calculators and an amount of GH¢60,136 had since been retrieved in lieu of missing books and calculators.

The Committee recommends that going forward, the names of students who fail to return school property upon completing school should be submitted to West African Examination Council (WAEC) to block them access to their results online until the school property in their custody have been returned.

Heads of schools are also urged to enhance the clearance system and to afford graduating students enough time after completing their papers to enable them organize themselves and return all school property before leaving the school.

### **8.15. Uncompetitive Procurement - GH¢2,316,474.88**

The Report recorded that Management of 39 Institutions made payments for goods and services procured totaling GH¢2,316,474.88, contrary to Section 20 of the Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 914 (Act, 2016).

The Auditor-General therefore recommended that the Institutions should seek retrospective approvals failing which they should be sanctioned in accordance with the Law.

The Committee observed that a number of institutions sited for procurement breaches had reduced from 49 in 2020 to 39 in 2021. The Committee however noted that 31 out of the 39 Institutions have complied with the recommendations of the Auditor-General.

The Committee therefore recommends to the Attorney-General to take steps to sanction the officers of the outstanding eight (8) institutions who failed to comply with the Audit recommendations.

The Institutions are as follows:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Amount in GH¢</b>
1. Kusanaba SHS	- 103,522.20
2. Binduru Community SHS	- 33,049.50
3. Jirapa SHS	- 35,612.50
4. Lassia Tuolu SHS	- 164,150.26
5. Piina SHS	- 47,582.00
6. Ullo SHS	- 43,221.00
7. Wa School for the Deaf	- 219,560.00
8. Sefwi Wiawso College of Education	- 276,807.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>- 923,504.68</b>

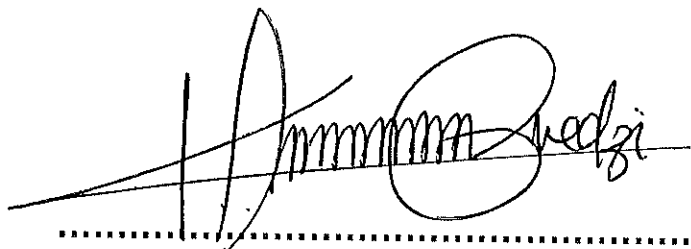
## **9.0. CONCLUSION**

The Committee finds that the Auditor-General prepared and presented the Report to Parliament in accordance with law and internationally accepted auditing standards.

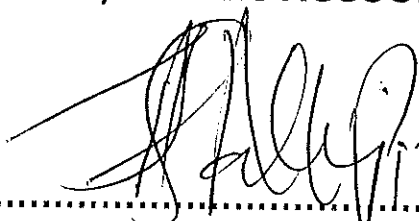
The Committee urges all Pre-Tertiary Educational Institutions to uphold and act in accordance with the financial laws of the country and to implement the recommendations herein without delay.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt this report and approve **the Report of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana, Pre-University Educational Institutions for the financial year ended 31 December 2021** in accordance with Orders 161 and 165(3) of the Standing Orders of the House.

Respectfully submitted.



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**HON. DR. JAMES KLUTSE AVEDZI (MP)**  
**CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**



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**JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS.)**  
**CLERK, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**