



OFFICE OF PARLIAMENT

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

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
ON THE 2018 BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
(NCCE)

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRAR
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Finance, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta on Wednesday, 15th November, 2017 presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the financial year ending 31st December, 2018 to Parliament in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

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

Subsequently, the Committee was assisted by the Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Josephine Nkrumah and officials from the NCCE and Ministry of Finance to deliberate on the Estimates.

The Committee is grateful to the Chairperson and officials for the assistance.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following additional documents:

- 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 2017 Financial Year;
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2018 Financial Year; and
- vi. The Report of the Special Budget Committee on the 2017 Annual Budget Estimates of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).

3.0 MISSION AND CORE FUNCTIONS 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. To this end, the core functions of the Commission include:

- o 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;
- o Educate and encourage the public to defend the Constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violations;

- o 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;
- o Formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Ghana the awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people; and
- o 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.

4.0 2017 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

An amount of **Forty Two Million Nine Hundred and Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢42,951,777)** was allocated to the Commission in 2017 for its programmes and activities. As at August 2017 the Commission spent an amount of **Twenty Four Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-nine Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢24,699,220.00)** representing 57.5% of its allocation to further its objectives. The breakdown of the 2017 allocation by cost center and actual releases as at August 2017 is as follows:

Table 1: NCCE Budget Performance in 2017

Item	2017 ALLOCATION (GH¢)	AMOUNT RELEASED 30/09/2017 (GHC)	AMOUNT RECEIVED (GH¢)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (GH¢)	(%) RELEA SED
Compensation of Employees	38,067,229	25,715,762	25,715,762	25,715,762	67.6
Goods and Services	2,884,548	1,604,668	889,114.0	889,114	55.6
Capital Expenditure	2,000,000	500,000	-	-	25
Total	42,951,777	27,820,430	26,604,876	26,604,876	57.5

During the year under review, the NCCE received an amount of GHc3, 160,320.00 from Development Partners that to support its activities.

4.1 2017 ACHIEVEMENTS OF NCCE

In furtherance of its mandate under the Constitution, the Commission undertook the following activities in 2017:

- a. Launched an inter-university civic challenge quiz at the University of Ghana as part of the Commission's flagship programme to encourage the youth especially tertiary students to study the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- b. Organized a number of community durbars and other fora held by all the 216 district offices of the Commission for 5,627 PWDs, women's groups, traditional authorities and faith

based organizations on the roles of the three arms of government and good governance fundamental human rights and responsibilities and how to hold duty bearers accountable

- c. Organized a Constitution Spelling Bee competition among some basic schools in collaboration with Indomie Company limited.
- d. Organized a national dialogue on the theme "Restoring the Ghana Identity: Our Values; Our Passion
- e. Visited seven 7,700 basic schools across the country during the 2017 Citizenship Week Celebration under the theme "Restoring Our Ghanaian Values: The Role of the Ghanaian Child.

5.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2018

In 2018, the Commission will continue its education and sensitization of the public on the principles of the 1992 Constitution to increase awareness, advocacy and enforcement of citizen's rights and responsibilities.

The NCCE will undertake an information sharing sessions of staff of the NCCE. There would also engage in eleven staff durbars across the country on ARAP issues.

NCCE will provide training/exchanges to cover senior level management staff on anti-corruption, rule of law and accountability issues.

There would be a sensitization of identifiable groups (FBOs, CSOs, workplaces, traditional authorities) and E-Quiz/Constitution game board competitions.

NCCE will also engage in citizenship week campaigns on environmental governance in collaboration with environmental protection Authority. Also social auditing engagements in 216 selected districts nationwide will take place.

There would be TV and radio panel discussions on ARAP issues. The Commission will also air documentaries, animations and jingles on anti-corruption, rule of law and accountability as part of its anti-corruption drive.

5.1 **BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2018**

For the performance of the above functions, the National Commission for Civic Education has been allocated an amount of **Forty Eight Million, Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred And Twelve Ghana Cedis (GH¢48,019,612.00)** for its activities in the 2018 financial year. The allocation is to be disbursed among the three main expenditure items as follows:

Table 2: Disbursement of 2018 Budget Allocation

ITEM	BUDGET ALLOCATED (GH¢)
Compensation of employee	44,873,522.00
Goods and Service	2,146,090.00
Capital Expenditure	1,000,000.00
Total	48, 019,612.00

Notwithstanding the fact that the budgetary allocation to the Commission has increased significantly from **GHC42,951,777 in 2017 to GHC48,019,612.00** in 2018 representing 11.8% increase the allocation falls short of the Commission's financial requirement for 2018. ;

The 2018 budget of NCCE will be expended on two programmes and six sub programmes as follow:

Table 3: 2018 Allocation by Program and sub-program

S/N	Program	Sub Programs	2018 allocation (GH¢)
1	Management and Administration	General Administration and Human Resource	16,745,649
		Finance	538,434
		Research, Gender and Equality	333,412
		Communication and Corporate Affairs	367,698
2	Civic Education	Constitutional Awareness Creation	12,270,808
		Deepening and Sustaining Civil Awareness	9,104,366
Total			48,019,612

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee having carefully considered the Estimates made the following observations:

6.1 Deplorable State of Office Accommodation

The Committee was informed that since its establishment in 1992, NCCE has not had any office accommodation of its own. The Commission is currently housed at the premises of the electoral Commission. Officials from the Commission explained to the Committee that, the facility that currently houses the Commission is in a very deplorable state and needed urgent rehabilitation to make it conducive for habitation. The roofs of the offices leak very badly whenever it rain exposing important national documents and assets to risk of destruction by dripping water. All efforts to get the Ministry of Works and Housing to relocate the Commission or get the place renovated has not been successful.

The Commission further informed the Committee that, most of its regional and district offices operate from rented premises with exorbitant rents that exerts pressure on the Commission's resources.

The Committee is worried about the failure of the state to provide basic items such as office accommodation for a constitutional institutions established since 1992. The Committee has reported on the poor state of accommodation for NCCE every year, yet successive Ministers of State Finance and Works and Housing have not taken

measures to address this basic need of the Commission. The head office of the Commission is in a very deplorable state requiring urgent attention to avert any disastrous calamity. A visit to the premises of the Commission by the Committee revealed serious structural defects and acute shortage of office space compelling the Commission to keep some vital documents outside at the mercy of the rain. The visit also revealed serious congestion due to lack of office space.

The Committee therefore urge the Ministers for Finance and Works and Housing to ensure that at least the existing office is renovated or the Commission is relocated to better and safer place as a matter of urgency in order to avert a looming disaster whilst effort is made for a befitting office accommodation is constructed in the long run for the Commission.

6.2 Allocation for Public Education

The Committee noted that, the 2018 budget did not allocate resources to NCCE for public education on the upcoming referendum and district level elections. The Chairperson of the Commission explained to the Committee that, in the past, all public educational programs relating to district level and national elections are funded by Development Partners. Donor support to the Commission however cannot be guaranteed. She opined that, if donor inflows fail the Commission will not be in position to undertake public education on the upcoming elections and referendum.

The Committee is of the view that Public education on elections is vital having regard to the low level of interest and participation in local elections. The need for public education is more important in national elections in view of the high numbers of rejected ballots

recorded in the previous elections. In view of these, there is the need for the state to prioritize public education and allocate resources to it. The allocation of resources for public education on the electoral issues has become more important in view of the fact that Ghana has attained a middle income status and donor support to institutions of state keep dwindling at a faster pace.

7.0 **CONCLUSION**

Considering the fact that the NCCE plays a major role in the socio-economic, political and democratic development of the country the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve the sum of **Forty Eight Million, Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred And Twelve Ghana Cedis (GH¢48,019,612.00)** to finance the operations of the National Commission for Civic Education for the 2018 fiscal year.

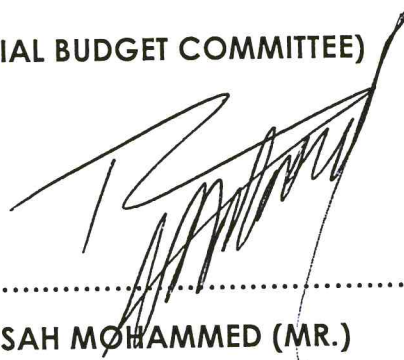
Respectfully submitted.



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HON. OSEI KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU

MAJORITY LEADER AND CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE)

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INUSAH MOHAMMED (MR.)

CLERK, SPECIAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

December, 2017