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26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## FACT CHECKING - PROCUREMENT OF BVDS AND BVRs BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION IN 2020

Since 2020, Mr. Bright Simons and Imani have persistently published misinformation to the public, claiming that the Electoral Commission spent US\$150 million on Biometric Verification Devices (BVDs). It is instructive to note that, prior to their peddling this figure, they had quoted US\$300 million as the cost of the Biometric Verification Devices (BVDs) and Biometric Voters Registration Kits (BVRs) procured by this Commission in 2020.

Only this week, Mr. Simons repeated this false claim on X (formally Twitter) while commenting on old BVDs that the Commission had indeed auctioned in 2022, some of which were found at a recycling plant in Accra. The Commission would like to take this opportunity to provide the general public with the facts that anyone can verify, as follows:

1. In June 2018, the previous administration of the Commission had budgeted and received approval, to invest US\$56 million for the refurbishment of Biometric Verification Devices (BVDs) and Biometric Voters Registration Kits (BVRs) a Data Centre and Security enhancements under the voter registration and voter verification projects. The contract was specifically geared towards the conduct of the 2018 referendum and District Level Elections (DLE). The Voter registration project included the refurbishment of 1,670 BVR kits and the procurement of 1,000 new BVDs while the Voter Verification Project included the refurbishment of 46,200 BVDs as well as acquisition of 10,000 new BVDs. However, the current administration of the Commission made a strategic decision to cancel the contract for the total refurbishment and the procurement of new BVDs, opting for a minimal maintenance arrangement.
2. In 2020 based on the experience with the equipment in the 2019 DLE, the current Commission applied and received approval from the PPA to acquire new BVDs, BVRs, a Data Centre and a Data Recovery Centre.
3. Below, we provide the general public with the approved 2018 budget for BVDs and BVRs in comparison to the approved 2020 budget for new BVDs, BVRs, the cost of BVDs and


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BVRs required in 2020 at the 2018 approved prices, and the savings that this Commission made for Ghana by strategically opting to buy new equipment in 2020.

4. PPA-Approved Budget for BVDs and BVRs in 2018

Electoral Commission of Ghana_2018 PPA-Approved Budget for Equipment				
Description of Product	Condition	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
BVDs	Refurbishment	46200	\$244.00	\$11,272,800
BVDs	New	10000	\$917.00	\$9,170,000
BVR Kits	New	1000	\$5,145.00	\$5,145,000
BVR Kits	Refurbishment	1670	\$3,565.00	\$5,953,550
				<b>\$31,541,350</b>

5. PPA-Approved Budget for BVDs and BVRs in 2020

Electoral Commission of Ghana_2020 PPA-Approved Budget for Equipment				
Description of Product	Condition	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
BVDs	New	74500	\$336.00	\$25,032,000
BVR Kits	New	8500	\$3,423.38	\$29,098,730
				<b>\$54,130,730</b>



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6. What it would cost to procure BVDs and BVRs required in 2020 using the 2018 approved figures

Electoral Commission of Ghana_2020 Equipment at 2018 Prices				
Description of Product	Condition	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
BVDs	New	74500	\$917.00	\$68,316,500
BVR Kits	New	8500	\$5,145.00	\$43,732,500
				<b>\$112,049,000</b>

7. For the 74,500 new BVDs and 8,500 new BVRs, the current administration of the Commission saved this country an amount of US\$57,918,270 compared to the prices at which the previous administration was going to pay for new BVDs and BVRs. Please take note that the cost of refurbishing one BVR kit as approved in 2018 was \$3,565 while the cost of a new BVR Kit purchased by the current administration in 2020 was \$3,423.38. As Ghanaians, would we have preferred to refurbish old BVRs at a unit cost higher than a new one?
8. It is also worth noting that, the previous Commission earmarked **US\$15 million** for the data centre and biometric system upgrade, whereas the current administration spent **US\$6,161,869.69** for a new data centre, a new data recovery centre and related services, saving the country US\$9 million.
9. The Commission would like to conclude by urging the public to ignore any publication that claims the Commission spent US\$150 million to acquire BVDs and BVRs in 2020. In fact, the total cost for 74,500 BVDs, 8,500 BVRs, a new data centre and a data recovery centre amounted to **US\$68,661,912.67** as shown in the breakdown below:

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NO	DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT (US\$)
1	20-02-20	Procurement of Biometric Voter Management System and related services	59,568,832.88
2	16-06-20	Procurement of Additional Biometric Verification Devices and Printers	1,139,650.00
3	25-09-20	Procurement of Additional Biometric Verification Devices	1,732,650.00
4	30-09-20	Procurement of Additional Biometric Verification Devices	58,910.10
5	30-12-19	Design, supply, installation, implementation and related services for the provision of Data and Recovery Center	6,161,869.69
<b>Total</b>			<b>68,661,912.67</b>

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