

# Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition-GNECC

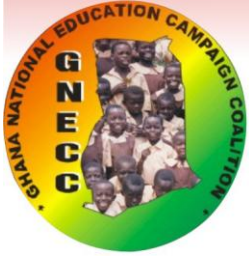
## **PRESS STATEMENT ON ROLL-OUT OF NEW CURRICULUM AND RELATED MATTERS**

The Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) refers to its statement of 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019 in which it commended government for a successful review of the Primary and KG curriculum. In the said statement, the Coalition emphasized that a good curriculum is only as good as its implementation. The following concerns are hereby made on the implementation arrangements of the new curriculum for government's attention:

1. **Textbooks for new curriculum:** Schools have reopened for the 2019/2020 academic year. Though there are no textbooks for the new curriculum the GES has decided to go ahead and start the implementation of the new curriculum this first term. The Coalition notes that, 'Next to an engaged and prepared teacher is a good and well-designed textbook'. However, the Ghana Publishers Association indicated only last week that they are only now in the process of developing the content of textbooks to be submitted to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) for review and approval. It is after the approval that the books may be printed for distribution, a process that can take quite some time to be well-executed.

In their press conference of September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, held in Aburi, the GES Director General avoided the sensitive issue of unavailable textbooks for the new curriculum. To date, there is no official statement on when textbooks will be available to Basic schools. This silence on the part of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the GES and Ministry of Education is unacceptable. ***The Coalition therefore demands a roadmap indicating timelines on processes leading to the supply of textbooks to every school in Ghana.***

2. **Training of Circuit Supervisors in new curriculum:** It was recommended in our statement of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 that in order to strengthen supervision in teaching, Circuit Supervisors must be given In- service training on how to monitor and supervise teachers in adopting Child-Centred pedagogy. We have observed that, they were trained together with the teachers on how to teach using the curriculum. While commending GES for this we maintain that all Circuit Supervisors must be trained in HOW TO MONITOR and REPORT on the quality of teaching in the new curriculum.



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**3. The National Inspectorate Board (NIB) and the new curriculum:** The NIB is mandated by law to set standards to be observed at the Basic and Second cycle levels in both public and private educational institutions and enforce same through its inspection panels who are supposed to provide independent external evaluation of the quality of teaching among others. We note that to date, the NIB is yet to train its Inspection panels in the evaluation of teaching under the new curriculum though this should have been done before starting the roll-out of the curriculum. We call for a more strategic inter-agency collaboration to ensure the right sequential processes for quality assurance in policy implementation.

**4. Procurement of school uniforms:** We note that the Ministry of Education has engaged Akosombo Textiles Ltd to print textiles for Secondary school uniforms under the free SHS program. This development is very much welcome, as it rhymes with his Excellency, The President's vision of promoting made in Ghana goods to create jobs. However, Civil Society is very much disappointed at the Ministry of Education concerning the contracts for the new Primary school uniforms which, as alleged by the Coalition of Textile Workers, were not given to any of the four local textile companies but rather outsourced to suppliers who eventually imported the fabric from China. We demand an explanation for this since it is a much larger quantity and would have helped create many more jobs.

We conclude by calling for a more coordinated inter-agency collaboration on the implementation of the new Primary school curriculum and subsequently as curriculum reviews for Junior High and Senior High Schools are done. The lessons arising out of the avoidable gaps in planning must guide us in the review and implementation process of the remaining curricula.

We welcome all students to the new academic year.

Very sincerely,

Kofi Asare  
Executive Council Chairman

Accra, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.