

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE TEACHERS


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**TO: EDITORS
ALL MEDIA HOUSES
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NAGRAT Lyceum, 3 July, 2024, Accra

RE: FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS) BILL: NAGRAT'S CONCERN

At the end of National Officers' Meeting held on Tuesday, 2 July, 2024, and after a thoughtful and lengthy deliberation on the announcement by the Government that it will be presenting to Parliament a Free Senior High School Bill which has led to extensive discussion by Members of Parliament and the General Public, we wish to express our disgust and grave concern over the lack of consultation of the bill .

In an interview granted by the Hon. Minister of Education to the Daily Graphic a fortnight ago, he indicated that the said Bill will among other things, decouple the Junior High School (JHS) from the Primary School, and make it part of Senior High School, thereby creating six years of Secondary Education as well as the cancellation of the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) as a precondition for gaining admission to the Senior High School.

It bears noting that, NAGRAT is curious about this unfortunate development, if what we have read and heard is indeed true.

We hereby express our disappointment over the lack of any extensive stakeholder consultations and inputs on the impending supposed Free Senior High School (SHS) Bill, especially from the Teacher Unions whose Members are key in the implementation of the Free Senior High School programme.

For all intents and purposes, you may recall that NAGRAT since the implementation of the Free SHS programme, has been calling for a review to right the wrongs and affirm the good therein.

Aside from that, NAGRAT members and indeed all teachers, have sacrificed dearly, since the implementation of the Free SHS programme, without the commensurate regard and appreciation. The inconveniences that teachers have had to bear upon the implementation of the Free SHS programme have been enormous. It is therefore unthinkable that the Ministry of Education will once more evinced this gross disrespect and disregard towards the teachers of this country, by this haste in promulgating a law without the input of stakeholders.

Leadership recalls that the Teacher Unions made cogent inputs into both the Education Regulatory Bodies Act, 2020 (Act 1023) and Pre-Tertiary Education Act, 2020 (Act 1049).


Therefore, NAGRAT takes exception to the effrontery of the Hon. Minister of Education to have consciously assumed that the views and inputs of the stakeholders do not matter in this Bill.

We hereby demand that the Government, in the interest of mutual respect and acceptance of any law that will affect Education, should suspend the presentation of the said bill to Parliament to allow for broad consultation.

We call on Parliament, especially the Select Committee on Education, that the so-called Bill is without Education Stakeholders' inputs, particularly the Teacher Unions, and therefore, should respectively, be rejected.

End.

1. Eric Agbe-Carbonu
(President)



2. Jacob Anaba
(Vice President)




3. Michael Ayuraboya
(General Secretary)



4. Rene Senyo Kwamikorkor
(Deputy General Secretary)



5. Harriet K. Annan
(Organising Secretary)



6. Rebecca Ocran Abaidoo
(Gender Desk Officer)



7. Isaac K. Lamptey.
(Finance Officer)

