



EDUWATCH STATEMENT ON PREPARATIONS TOWARD WASSCE 2022

Africa Education Watch (Eduwatch) in September 2021 published the WASSCE 2021 Monitoring Report which unearthed widespread examination fraud and malpractices through the leakage, sales, and foreknowledge of some questions on social media ahead of the scheduled examinations, and collusion between external invigilators and some school authorities to facilitate cheating. Eduwatch subsequently participated in a convening by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education to engage the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ghana Police Service, the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), and other stakeholders, which led to commitments to improve accountability and questions security in subsequent examinations. Almost ten (10) months after the stakeholder engagement on our report, and one month to the commencement of WASSCE 2022, Eduwatch wishes to make the following statement in respect of progress.

Delayed Prosecution of Suspects

On 15th September 2021, a formal petition containing very crucial information on the criminal activities of question marketers on various social media platforms was submitted by Eduwatch to the Director-General of the Criminal Investigations Department and subsequently referred to the Cyber Crime Unit. This was in addition to other complaints by stakeholders including WAEC and GES. Three weeks to the commencement of WASSCE 2022, our preliminary checks indicate that not a single prosecution of WASSCE 2021 examination fraud suspects/cases has been undertaken. The snail-paced investigations (if any) and the inertia in prosecuting examination fraud cases by the Ghana Police Service, almost a year after the WASSCE 2021 poses a significant setback to stakeholder efforts to eliminate examination fraud by making it a high-risk activity.

Use of National Investigation Bureau (NIB) Officials for BECE

Consequent to our WASSCE 2021 report and engagement, the MoE initiated some immediate measures to strengthen questions security in the 2021 Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE), which included the deployment of NIB officials to provide security during the questions printing and distribution process. We note that, as a result of the external security arrangement involving the NIB, aside the Police personnel stationed at WAEC, there was no leakage of the BECE papers. We commend the MoE and the NIB for their collaboration to improve questions security.

Africa Education Watch.

25 Nii Torgbor Avenue, ARS, East Legon. Ghana-West Africa.

Tel. 0303975001 | Email: info@africaeducationwatch.org | Twitter & Facebook: @AfricaEduWatch

www.africaeducationwatch.org



Commitments by WAEC and MoE to Improve WASSCE Credibility

We note other commitments made by the MoE and WAEC, including serializing questions, strengthening external invigilation, initiating legal reforms to criminalize examination malpractices, and enhancing the security features of question packs. Three weeks to the commencement of WASSCE 2022, it is necessary to engage the general and stakeholder public on implementation progress and measures instituted to ensure a fair and credible WASSCE 2022.

Eduwatch wishes to make the following calls for a credible WASSCE 2022:

1. The MoE should engage the NIB to oversee the printing and distribution of WASSCE 2022 papers.
2. The Inspector General of Police should intervene to expedite action on the various WASSCE 2021 examination fraud complaints and petitions.
3. The MoE and WAEC should convene a stakeholder meeting to discuss progress in implementing post-WASSCE 2021 commitments and various stakeholder roles in ensuring a fair and credible WASSCE 2022.
4. The Parliamentary Select Committee on Education must take a keen interest in the implementation progress of commitments made by the Police, MoE, WAEC, and GES at its convening in Koforidua on October 21, 2021, as we approach WASSCE 2022.

Curbing examination fraud and malpractice is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders, including parents, students, school authorities, WAEC, MoE, GES, Civil Society Organizations, the Ghana Police Service, and other Justice Sector Institutions. We call for increased stakeholder collaboration to curb examination fraud and malpractices and ensure the Ghanaian pre-tertiary assessment system conforms to international standards.

Accra, June 30, 2022.