

THE CONCERNS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN GNAPS 1B ASHAIMAN.

It is our strong believe that the government has not thought through well with various stakeholders before the Presidential address last Sunday 30th August, 2020. The following are our reasons:

REASONS.

A. COST TO OPERATORS OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

It is our believe that the government has not considered the cost of operations that the owners of private schools are bearing such as salaries of staff and other operational costs.

B. DIRECTIVE NOT BASE ON SCIENCE

The directive is not base on science because;

1. The number of children infected by the virus in Ghana is insignificant.
2. Children under 5 are not being tested when arriving into the country through our ports as included in the Presidential directives to those returning home from outside the country.
3. The Children are involved in many activities across the country including boarding of transport vehicles and going to market places. Why the same children should be prevented from going to school.

C. The new curriculum do not affect the current JHS 1 & 2 hence the JHS 1 now going to JHS 2 cannot be excluded.

D. GES CLAIM OF SAFETY

In the face of 'B' above, the GES claim that the President's focus is on safety and science is face sharing comment and is shallow in the face of the reality.

E. SPACE AND FACILITY

The private schools are not constraint with space and facilities. So we charge Government to come out with the appropriate protocol and monitoring systems which will be the best option instead of putting both Private and Public in one category.

F. DESTRUCTION OF VALUE CHAINS

The Private Schools have series of value claim which the President's directive is automatically destroying.

1. Food item suppliers who supplies to the schools for the students feeding will be out of business and cannot recover their business funds.

2. Financial institution that had provided facilities to the private schools for their business operations will be hard hit.

G. THE ACADEMIC CALENDER

The directives of the President if followed will disrupt the academic calendar for the whole school system of education in Ghana if the JHS 2 is allow to resume without the rest of the students.

H. THE INCONVENIENCE TO WORKING PARENTS

It is our considered view that the government directive does not take into consideration the plight of the working parents.

DEMANDS

- A. The Government / President should rethink through the current directives by allowing the committee set up by education minister to come out with the modalities to resume schools.
- B. The Government stimulus package should be released to Private Schools before 5th October 2020.
- C. If the government could not change its directives, we demand that the government school consider the salaries of all the employees of the Private Schools as being done for the public schools. This is because we are all SSNIT and GRA tax payers. We are just not interested in *tokenism* by the receiving of one meal a day.

Failure to heed to our demands, we are going to use our members, staff and parents numbering over 1.5 million nationwide, since the year is an election year to decide the appropriate leadership of the country; *we will VOTE accordingly to save our businesses.*