



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW STUDENTS

19th March, 2021

FORCED RESIGNATION OF GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW SRC PRESIDENT

The National Association of Law Students (NALS) has taken notice, with profound regret and utter disappointment, at the governance situation at the Ghana School of Law, in particular, the interference by the School's Management, hounding out the School's Students Representative Council (SRC) President, Mr. Philemon Laar.

NALS finds it utterly ridiculous the Management of a School that is to train law graduates to be professionals will sidestep the Constitution of the SRC, and begin to dish out directives to the Executives of the SRC contrary to the express principles of law and the provisions of SRC Constitution.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is not the business of the School Management to purport manage the affairs of the students body, invoking by-election and or removal from office without regard to due process. ***The removal of an Executive of the SRC on any just or constitutional grounds is an exclusive right and duty of a member of the student body, which the School Managers are not, and thereby constitute an abuse of their office.*** This is particularly so as a request for Remarketing of the Examination scripts have been disregarded by the authorities, who are instead insisting on unlawfully withdrawing recognition for the duly elected President. Certainly, this is an affront to the rules of natural justice.

NALS, therefore condemns in no uncertain terms the actions of the Management of the school as constituting undue interference in student affairs, which allowed, has worrying implications on the future ability of the SRC to soundly defend the interest of students, the biggest stakeholder group at the school.

It will be recalled that prior to his election as President, Mr. Laar was among a group of students who led the 2019 demonstration that sought reforms in legal education. Mr. Laar, although successful in the 2019 Ghana School of Law Entrance Exam, played a key role ensuring that access to legal education was expanded for other aspiring lawyers.

Moreover, during his tenure as SRC Presidents he attempted to engage the Management on the **withdrawal of the admission of 31 students** who successfully passed the 2020 Entrance Exams but were awaiting their Certificates from their respective LLB Awarding Institutions (<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/GSL-withdraws-31-students-over-failure-to-meet-deadline-for-submission-of-LLB-certificates-1200976>)

He further advocated for the reduction in the Professional Law Course Fees.

NALS, in the circumstances, has reasonable grounds to suspect high handedness.

Indeed, NALS recalls that even the High Court order of October 2020 requiring the General Legal Council, proprietors of the Ghana School of Law, to publish modalities for review and remarking of scripts, in particular that of the Entrance Examination, is hitherto being fiercely resisted by the GLC.

Having regard to the statement made in Parliament by the caretaker Finance Minister during the 2021 Budget reading, NALS comes to a firm conclusion that the exam results for both the entrance examination and the professional law course are not the true reflection of industry of law students but rather, those in authority have resolved not to solve the problem with Legal Education and instead, are poised to use capricious means to curtail the aspirations of the Ghanaian Youth seeking to be lawyers.

We therefore call on all well-meaning Ghanaians and the international community to condemn these developments.

ISSUED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW STUDENTS