



GHANA STUDENTS ASSOCIATION IN HUNGARY



"Solidarity, Education & Excellence"

GHANA STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN HUNGARY



Solidarity, Excellence and Education

Our Ref: GASH25/001/08/25.....

Your Ref:.....

Date: 21st APRIL 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TITLE: GHANAIAN STUDENTS IN HUNGARY FACE SEVERE HARDSHIPS DUE TO ELEVEN (11) MONTHS UNPAID STIPENDS: URGENT CALL TO ACTION FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

Budapest Hungary — For the past eleven (11) months, Ghanaian students pursuing various levels of study in Hungary, including undergraduate, masters, and PhD programs, have encountered a frightening situation where stipend payments have been discontinued and book allowances have been overdue for two academic years. This chronic financial neglect has resulted in a crisis that jeopardizes our education, well-being, and future chances.

Efforts made by the student leaders to engage with government officials (Ghana Scholarships Secretariats) to request urgent solutions have yielded no results. As a result, many students are now experiencing dire hardships, including:

- 1. Severe Financial Distress:** The lack of stipend payments has made it nearly impossible for many students to meet basic living expenses, including rent and utilities. Many now find themselves in precarious living situations and at serious risk of homelessness.
- 2. Academic Challenges:** Without a reliable source of funding for educational materials, students struggle to purchase essential textbooks and resources and even conduct research. This lack of necessary academic support undermines our ability to perform effectively in our courses and this is jeopardizing our academic standing.
- 3. Psychological Strain:** The ongoing financial insecurity has led to increased levels of stress and anxiety among students. Many express feelings of helplessness and despair as they navigate the challenges of balancing academics with daily survival struggles.
- 4. Impact on Health and Well-being:** Inadequate financial resources have forced some students to compromise on their health and nutrition, resulting in negative impacts on their physical and mental well-being.

5. Potential Dropout Rates: The compounded pressures of unpaid stipends and mounting debts may push some students to consider abandoning their studies altogether, which would create a substantial loss of talent and potential for Ghana's future workforce.

In light of these challenges, we are reaching out to the Government of Ghana, the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat, the Chief of Staff, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, and all relevant stakeholders to take immediate action to ensure that all students are paid what they're due.

OUR URGENT CALLS INCLUDE:

- **IMMEDIATE DISBURSEMENT OF STIPENDS AND ARREARS:** We urge the government to prioritize the release of 11 months outstanding stipend and 2 years' book allowance payments to ensure students can meet their basic needs and continue their education without further interruptions.

- **ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELIABLE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A clear and dependable schedule for future stipends should be put in place to prevent similar occurrences in the future, ensuring that students are consistently supported during our studies abroad.

- **FINANCIAL AID AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS:** We encourage the government to explore additional financial support options for affected students, including emergency funds or loans, to help them navigate this difficult period.

- **OPEN DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS:** Regular communication between government representatives and student organizations is crucial to ensure that students' concerns are voiced, understood, and addressed promptly.

We stress that addressing this issue is not just about the students affected; it is about the future of Ghana and the investment in its young leaders. We sincerely hope that the government and other stakeholders will heed this urgent call to action and come to our aid before any further disasters occur.

ISSUED BY: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) GASH

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