



NEW PATRIOTIC PARTY

POLICY SECRETARIAT

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NPP CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO FIND REAL SCHOOL PLACES FOR THE 54,000 BECE CANDIDATES AND THE 183,000 WASSCE CANDIDATES

The New Patriotic Party has taken note of the plight of two groups of Ghanaian children who are waiting on the Mahama administration to address the current frustrations they are facing.

The first is the 54,985 children who sat the BECE and were told, four days ago, that they had not qualified for secondary school. Government has since changed its mind. It now says 53,887 of them may place themselves online.

The second is the 183,233 young people who have just left secondary school without a credit in Core Mathematics. That credit is the door to most degree programmes, and to a good deal of training and work besides.

The New Patriotic Party is calling on Government to stop reacting to each problem only after it becomes public, and to give both groups a real way forward. Not an announcement. A seat in a classroom, or a place on a course.

A Portal Is Not A School Place

In the case of the BECE candidates who were not assigned any school placements by the CSPS, the Government's announcement of September 7th 2026 asking applicants to go back online for self-placement suggest that the Ministry of Education has not learnt lessons from previous challenges with the placement system. By the time 53,887 candidates log in, the schools and programmes they wanted will largely be gone. What will remain will be schools from home, unwanted courses and exorbitant transport or hostel bills that many families cannot pay.

Ghanaian parents and candidates will judge the resolution of the challenge by one thing only: how many of the original 54,985 are sitting in a classroom, not how many were allowed to open a website.

There Are Enough Places In The System

Government's own figures show 859,828 vacancies for 623,072 BECE candidates. The country does not lack places. It lacks places in the handful of schools everyone wants. Some 313,283 candidates put a Category A school first, and those schools have 76,417 seats between them.

After elaborately campaigning against the double track system, what Ghanaians expected the NDC administration to have done was to explore innovative ways by which facilities would be opened up in the schools that are being passed over, with teachers, laboratories and better programmes, as the last NPP Government was doing. Additionally, there are 85 private schools already inside Free SHS which have the capacity to absorb the stranded children. Unfortunately the Government has failed at this after two years in office.

The Other End Of The System Is In Worse Shape

This year's WASSCE results in English Language and Core Mathematics are both below where they stood in 2024, when this Government took over. Mathematics has climbed back from last year's crash, but it has not climbed back to where it started. English has fallen for two years running.

Last year, Government blamed the poor results on stricter invigilation. This year invigilation was just as strict, with even more cancellations, and three subjects went up. That explanation has run out. Results turn on teaching, learning time, materials, attendance and support, not on one convenient factor raised when the news is bad and dropped when it is good.

The 183,233 Also Need Somewhere To Go

A weak certificate closes doors at exactly the moment a young person is trying to start out, whether the next step is a university, a workshop or a job.

The tools to help them already exist. There is an academic intervention programme in every public senior high school. There is a remedial programme for candidates who need to resit. There is Free TVET across 186 institutions, a National Apprenticeship Policy, and the Ghana Jobs and Skills Project. This Government inherited all of them. It is not using any of them at the scale these numbers demand.

What We Are Asking For

1. Place all 54,985 affected BECE candidates in schools, and publish the final outcome so the country can see who actually got a place.
2. Government should clarify what rule and what pass mark were used this year, and when they were approved. Parents are entitled to know the standard before their child sits an examination, not after.
3. Use the 85 private Free SHS schools, and put teachers and facilities into the schools that keep ending up with empty seats.
4. Fund the academic intervention and remediation programmes properly, so that fewer students fall below the required grades next year and performance returns to at least the 2024 level.
5. Publish how many TVET, apprenticeship and jobs training places are actually open to this year's school leavers, region by region and trade by trade, and match them against the 183,233 who need one.

The 54,985 need school places. The 183,233 need a second chance. A Government that only moves when a problem reaches the news is not running the education sector. The Education Sector appears rather to be running the Government. The over 200,000 stranded Ghanaian children cannot wait for the next sudden move by Government and the NPP calls for proactive quick action to protect their future.

SIGNED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kojo Oppong Nkrumah', written in a cursive style.

Kojo Oppong Nkrumah (MP)

Chairman, NPP Policy Co-ordination Committee

For further comments, contact:

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