

**A STATEMENT BY HON. PETER NORTSU-KOTOE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR AKATSI NORTH AND RANKING MEMBER ON EDUCATION ON THE
CONDUCT OF THE 2022 WEST AFRICAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION AND THE CHALLENGES FACING THE WEST AFRICAN
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL.**

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to make this statement on the impending 2022 West African Senior School Certificate Examination for school candidates and the challenges the West Africa Examinations Council, the authority charged with the conduct of the examinations, faces in the discharge of its mandate.

This year, a total number of four Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Three (422,883) candidates have registered to take part from Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven (977) schools. There are Seventy-Two (72) candidates, with visual impairment and Fourteen (14) with hearing impairment.

This year's examination, which is Ghana Version of the 2022 WASSCE, is expected to start from the 1st of August to the 27th of September, 2022. Candidates are to write a total of sixty (60) subjects including four (4) core and fifty-Six (56) electives. Each candidate is to write four (4) core subjects and four (4) electives from the seven programmes offered in senior high schools.

Mr Speaker, let me use this opportunity to wish all the candidates for the examinations this year a big success despite the challenges they are currently facing in preparing for the examinations which include food shortages and the strike action by teachers and educational workers at the pre-tertiary level.

Mr Speaker, let me use this opportunity to remind all candidates of measures being put in place by WAEC to make sure that examination malpractices which include cheating, taking of foreign documents and materials to the examination halls as well as violence on supervisors and invigilators are checked and stiff sanctions are brought to bear on all those who fall foul of the regulations.

Mr. Speaker, Ghanaians are expecting the West African Examinations Council will conduct a credible examination this year devoid of malpractices, delays in the start of the examination among others. However, this cannot be done without adequate provision of funds to WAEC to conduct a smooth and credible examination.

The greatest problem facing the West African Examination Council in the discharge of its mandate is the inadequate release of funds to the Council.

Mr Speaker, as at today, the Government of Ghana has not finished paying WAEC for the conduct of the 2021 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

Government owes a balance of **Fifteen Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety Thousand and Seventy-Two Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 15,790,072.00)** for the WASSCE and **Seven Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five Ghana Cedis (7,221,755.00)** for the BECE. This makes a total outstanding debit of **Twenty - Three Million, Eleven Thousand, and Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 23,011,827.00)** on the two examinations for 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the situation has become dire as no money has been released to WAEC for the conduct of the 2022 WASSCE and BECE. WAEC immediately needs a total of **Ninety-Six Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty -Two Ghana Cedis and Forty Pesewas (GH¢ 96,694,432.40)** to engage in a number of pre -examination activities, transportation, and allowances for examiners, supervisors, invigilators and depot-keepers.

Mr. Speaker, it is disheartening to know that persons who supervised and invigilated the BECE for school candidates as well as script checkers for 2021 are yet to be paid the allowances due them.

Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to appeal to the Minister of Finance to as a matter of urgency release money to the West African Examination Council for a smooth conduct of this year's examination.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.