





ND_C

NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESS





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BRIEF INTRODUCTION

As Social Democrats, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) subscribes to a compassionate political philosophy that seeks to create opportunities for all to develop to their fullest potential.

The NDC reaffirms its unwavering conviction to the cardinal role of education in moulding the human resource of our nation and shaping a progressive and transformative destiny.

As a Social Democratic party, which puts people first, it is our firm belief that the human resource of our great nation is the most valuable asset.

7.2.1 Teacher Motivation

The next NDC Government will:

- a. Revisit and make functional the agenda of providing special incentives for teachers who accept postings to rural and deprived communities.
- b. Increase teachers retention premium.
- c. Train and motivate teachers and caregivers in special schools.



- d. Abolish the mandatory national service and teacher licensure examinations for graduate teachers.
- e. Restore automatic employment of newly trained teachers.
- f. Fast track promotions and applications for academic progression.

- g. Open special credit lines to facilitate access to loans.
- h. Provide teachers with free tablets to facilitate teaching and learning.



- i. Restore the automatic employment of newly trained teachers to improve the teacher student ratio.
- j. Collaborate with teacher unions to implement a special regime allowing teachers to own vehicles under affordable terms.
- k. Reinstate the payment of responsibility allowances to teachers.

7.2.2 Basic School Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. ~~Expand and refurbish educational facilities to make them fit for 21st century education.~~
- b. Provide all eligible children especially those in under-served areas, with the necessary support and incentives to remain in school.
- c. Increase budgetary allocation to basic education to enhance teaching and learning activities.
- d. Provide pre-school facilities closer to markets, ministries and city centres to ease the burden of child-care on mothers and promote productivity while the children learn.

- e. Encourage the private sector to invest in pre-schools and recreational facilities for their workers.
- f. Ensure quality learning through the allocation of teachers, improved pedagogy, appropriate learning spaces, provision of teaching and learning materials and effective supervision, and motivation and support of teachers
- g. Expunge Comprehensive Sexuality Education from the school curriculum.
- h. Create opportunities for early visual and audio screening of pupils to detect and support children with special needs.

- i. Create opportunities for out of school children to receive education while encouraging the application of the right entry age to school.
- j. Raise levels of numeracy, literacy, self-esteem and responsible citizenship by extending opportunities to market women, commercial drivers, labourers and head porters 'kayaye' through an extended Complementary Basic Education based on more flexible school hours.
- k. Increase engagement with schools through community (regional and district offices, traditional and religious leaders, unions, among others) commitment and more efficient use of existing structures.

1. Set up a panel of experts to conduct a thorough assessment of the current curriculum and make recommendations on the way forward with the view to improving standards, addressing distortions and bridging the quality gap between public and private basic schools

- m. Embark on a rapid roll-out of modern technological learning tools (including blended learning and IoTs) to transform the scope and nature of education at this level challenges exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic
- n. Restore Arabic studies which have been taken out of the new curriculum by the NPP, and proceed to recruit Arabic teachers, thereby, lifting the current ban.

Secondary Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. Make the Free Senior High School Programme better by ensuring that its numerous challenges are addressed, and higher standards introduced.
- b. Expand the Free SHS programme to cover students in private Senior High Schools in underserved/deprived areas.
- c. Abolish the double-track system.
- d. Complete abandoned structures for secondary and technical education including abandoned E-Blocks to cater for current students and expected increase in admissions.

- e. Strengthen and sustain private participation in the delivery of secondary education.
- f. Ensure newly created regions have functioning directorates of education.
- g. Commence the construction of at least one Senior High School in districts without same
- h. Set upschools in disadvantaged, over-populated and under-served areas including Zongos and other deprived communities.

- i Expand existing and well performing schools to admit and accommodate more students including Ghanaians abroad who wish to imbibe our culture.
- j. Promote the use of IT and provide free Wi-Fi in schools to enhance the performance of students.
- k. Provide students and teachers with free tablets loaded with relevant content to facilitate teaching and learning.

- 1. Provide computer laboratories for all secondary schools
- m. Address challenges with the Computerised School Selection and Placement System (CSSPS)
- n. Decentralise and strengthen procurement of food and other materials to the heads of the SHSs and their bursars
- o. Provide residential facilities in schools to accommodate teachers and educational staff.

- p. Restore free expression and eschew intimidation among stakeholders
- q. Revisit and scale up our intervention of providing free sanitary towels to needy and vulnerable females with the aim of keeping all girls in school throughout the academic calendar as we improve on their health and general well-being.

7.2.4 Technical and Vocational Education and Training

- The next NDC Government will:
 - a. Provide free Technical and Vocational Education at the secondary and tertiary levels.
 - b. Implement a free National Apprenticeship Programme by establishing centres in TVET institutions in districts to provide free training and sponsor youth for free apprenticeship training with certified master craftsmen/women.
 - c. Commence a programme for the establishment of ultramodern and fit-for-purpose Technical Institutes all regions that do not have any.

- d. Review NABPTEX and COTVET standards and make them compliant with Smart Automation Certifications under the global Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA).
- e. Rebrand Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to promote interest and acceptability amongst the youth as a programme of first choice and provide incentives for TVET students and instructors.
- f. Re-launch the Skills Development Fund (SDF) to serve as an intervention fund to cater for TVET graduates and others who venture into self-employment.

- g. Encourage and provide packages for females to enrol and be retained in male-dominant vocations.
- h. Train more TVET teachers.
- i. Intensify practical and theoretical knowledge in technical and vocational training.
- j. Regularly engage stakeholders to narrow the gap between industry and training.
- k. Deepen life skills, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in TVET curriculum to create more jobs.

7.2.5 Special Needs Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. Collaborate with the Paediatric Society of Ghana and parents to institute early medical screening for new-borns and pre-school children in order to identify children with special needs and address their challenges.
- b. Train more facilitators in specialized areas to effectively assist children with disabilities and monitor their growth.
- c. Provide modern assistive medical devices such as hearing aids and walking sticks to children with special needs.
- d. Expand existing areas of expertise beyond visual and hearing impairment.

- e. Incentivise qualified special educators and other multi-disciplinary team members to forestall their high attrition rates.
- f. Implement a programme to aggressively re-equip all special needs schools and improve the learning conditions of staff and students.
- g. Significantly increase the budgetary allocation to special schools.
- h. Provide affordable special needs schools.
- i. Provide tax reliefs for working parents with special needs children to enable them pay for 24-hour care for the children while they are at work.

7.2.6 Tertiary Education

The next NDC Government will:

- a. Repeal the Public Universities Act if enacted and allow public universities to exercise the autonomy the Constitution has clothed them with.
- b. Strengthen the regulatory role of the National Council for Tertiary Education.
- c. Absorb fifty per cent (50%) of fees of tertiary students for the 2020/2021 academic year as an incentive to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on students and parents.
- d. Establish free Wi-Fi zones in all public and private tertiary institutions.

- e. Provide free laptops to tertiary students to facilitate participation in virtual classes.
- f. Encourage shared laboratory experiences especially for those in the science and technology programmes and include private tertiary institutions.
- g. Complete the conversion of all polytechnics into Technical Universities (TUs) in line with our original vision of creating opportunities for professional mobility of practitioners.
- h. Reposition the TUs to produce relevant manpower for national development.

- j. Equip all Amatrol labs and provide appropriate training both home and abroad for instructors.
- k. Operationalise the National Research Fund
- l. Expand medical education, training of Physician Assistants, nurses and midwives and preventive health practitioners to sustain Free Primary Health Care for all.
- m. Enhance staff exchanges across/among public/private institutions especially among distinguished and experienced professionals.
- n. Encourage and support private investment in infrastructure especially for student accommodation and transportation.

- o. Create equal opportunities for females and individuals with special needs.
- p. Establish universities in the six new regions.

- q. Maintain the status quo with regards to payment of allowances for teacher and nursing trainees.
- r. Abolish the mandatory national service and teacher licensure examinations for graduates of the Colleges of Education.

- s. Restore automatic employment of newly trained teachers.
- t. Provide free tertiary education for persons with disabilities.
- u. Support tertiary institutions to invest in virtual infrastructure.

7.2.7 Legal Education

- a. Vigorously reform and expand access to professional legal education and provide opportunities to all qualified LLB holders by granting accreditation to certified law faculties to undertake the professional law qualification course.
- b. Review the Legal Profession Act in consultation with stakeholders, and establish a Council for legal education and training, to accredit certified law faculties to run the Professional Law Course subject to the oversight supervision of the Council.
- c. Establish a faculty of law in the Northern Region to serve the northern sector

7.2.8 Student Loans

The next NDC Government will:

- a. Resource the Student Loan Trust Fund to make timely and adequate payments to students.
- b. Increase students' loans to be commensurate with prevailing educational costs.
- c. Abolish the requirement of guarantors as a pre-condition for accessing student loans to enable more students who need financial assistance access the loan.
- d. Replace the guarantor eligibility system with possession of a recognised National Identity Card to facilitate tracking post-school tracking and loan recovery.

- e. Extend loan repayment period to ten years including a three year moratorium to commence repayment.
- f. Remove all impediments to the ability of students to easily access the facility.
- g. Extend coverage to students in public and private tertiary institutions.
- h. Reintroduce the SLTF Plus to enable students access loans upon admission.

7.2.9 Life-long Learning

Promote life-long learning by providing free literacy skills for market women, commercial drivers, labourers and head porters ‘kayayei’ etc. In collaboration with other relevant institutions.

The next NDC Government will:

- a. Modernise and rebrand the non-formal education sector to make it more attractive
- b. Improve digital literacy
- c. Promote closer collaboration between the Non-Formal Education Division of the Ministry of Education, the Bureau of Ghana Languages and the NCCE for comprehensive and effective continuous public and adult education on responsible citizenship.
- d. Reposition the Ghana Bureau of Ghanaian Languages to efficiently promote the development of Ghanaian languages.

7.2.10 Restoring Credible Examinations

The NDC recognises that conducting credible examination is sinequa non to globally competitive and respected education. There is an urgent need to protect the sanctity of examinations conducted by the West African Examinations Council following recent reports of widespread leakage and alarming malpractices particularly during the 2020 WASSCE which threatens the very foundation of Ghana's education and the certificates issued therefrom.

The next NDC Government is determined to boldly confront this canker by conducting a surgical inquiry into the causes and the factors that have brought us to this unacceptable point after which comprehensive reforms will be carried out to restore the credibility and good image of examinations.