



11th October, 2021

END OF 2021 WASSCE AND MATTERS ARISING

The Institute for Education Studies (IFEST) wishes to congratulate all candidates who sat for the just ended 2021 West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (WASSCE) and the subsequent completion of their senior high school education in Ghana. We have observed that, examinations conducted by the West African Examination Council (WAEC), has in recent times been characterized by series of malpractices which we find very unfortunate. Sadly, the examination body and relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service, continue to provide lip service as to how to end this perennial examination malpractices.

Another act which is increasingly becoming part of WASSCE is the attitude of some finalists. We have taken note of pockets of riots and disturbances on some campuses. Prominent amongst them, is the burning of the boy's dormitory of Nyinahin Catholic School in the Ashanti region. We condemn this pocket of violence and call on the Ghana Police Service to make the culprits face the full rigours of the law when found.

The burning of properties by these final year students goes to back a report released by IFEST in 2018 on the changing nature of riots on campuses. In the report, we noted that the indiscipline in our educational institutions have graduated from the mere chanting of war songs, boycotting of dining to the attacking of staff and destroying properties. These are worrying trends and needs to be nipped in the bud before they get out of hand. Again, it has been observed that, after registering for their final examination, some students tend to be very indiscipline causing series of problems for the school, teachers and their colleagues.

We are of the conviction that, an all-round educational system should be promoted instead of the focus on the cognitive or psychomotor domain. Of what use will it be if we produce scientists who are able to manufacture thermal plants and later turn around to set them ablaze?

We are therefore calling for a review of disciplinary measures in schools and a broader stakeholder consultation on how to maintain sanity in our schools especially for final year students, while respecting the rights of the student and not compromising on the mandate of the school system in shaping the total personality of the student.

Signed



Peter Anti

(Executive Director)