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IFEST'S PRESS STATEMENT ON GOVERNEMENT'S INTENTION TO END THE 'DOUBLE-TRACK' SYSTEM

The Institute for Education Studies [IFEST] wishes to commend government on its intention to end the double-track system under the Free Senior High School programme, in September 2019, as indicated by Minister of Education, Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh.

It must be stated that, we were one of the first Civil Society Organisations [CSOs] to have supported government for the implementation of the double-track. This was primarily hinged on the fact it [double-track] was necessary, at the time, due to the exigencies at that moment. It is based on this that IFEST finds it commendable, the move of ending the double-track, as it comes much earlier than scheduled.

Nonetheless, IFEST would like to call on government to as well revert to the trimester system where SHS students had three terms instead of the current semester system. This is because research in educational literature seems to favour a trimester system for students in high schools based on the fact that, the number of days spent in school is shorter and occur trice within an academic year with short breaks (between 14 to 40 days) as against the semester system with long days in school and long breaks (60 – 90 days). These long days in school associated with the semester system have implications on the cognitive development of the student at the high school level.

In any case, the Ministry of Education owes it to the various stakeholders, an explanation for the change, if they insist on maintaining the semester system. We believe that, such changes in our educational system should be backed by scientific proof that can stand the test of time.

It is worth noting that, IFEST will continue to provide policy alternatives and subject various government educational policies to scrutiny to help shape them for a better educated society.

Signed



Peter P. Anti

(Ag. Executive Director).