

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA'S WHITE PAPER ON THE EDUCATION REFORM REVIEW COMMITTEE'S REPORT HELD AT THE RADACH MEMORIAL CENTRE, TAMALE ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2005.**

**PREAMBLE**

We the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC), having organized a round table discussion involving stakeholders in education at the Radach Memorial Centre, Tamale on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2005 on the theme: **The Renewed Education Agenda: The White Paper Proposal;**

HAVING reviewed and assessed the Government of Ghana's White Paper on the report of the Education Review Committee on fee free compulsory quality and relevant basic education for all by the year 2015 and its potential impact;

Having reviewed and analyzed the findings and recommendations in the White paper on the education sector as a whole and their implications for equitable access to quality education;

RECOGNISING the great effort government is making towards the promotion of quality education in the country;

DETERMINED to offer effective partnership in the advancement of free, compulsory, relevant and enjoyable quality basic education for all, particularly, disadvantaged groups such as rural and urban dwellers, the poor, the girl child and Persons With Disabilities;

Based on our field experiences, towards making quality education in Ghana a reality and not a myth for all ordinary Ghanaian children;

Do hereby make the following recommendations:

1. That Government should maintain the three year senior secondary school (SSS) system and provide the needed resources, and the enabling environment to ensure effective monitoring and supervision in schools to enhance quality teaching and learning.
2. That Government should hasten the process of implementing the proposals in the White Paper within a set time frame.
3. That Government should ensure that the 'free' as stated in the constitution is truly **free**. Thus, expenditure that will keep the child out school should be removed or paid for by government.
4. That the cost structure of the capitation grant should be clearly defined and mechanisms put in place to ensure accountability.

5. That Government should ensure the availability of qualified, well-resourced and motivated teachers to improve the quality of teaching and learning.
6. That the Government should be more proactive on policies meant to address the educational needs of children with disabilities.
7. That Government, should consider replicating other flexible interventions such as the Shepherd Schools concept to help address the issue of access to education as a pro-poor measure.
8. That government should ensure the provision of essential tools and equipment to give employable skills and training to junior secondary school (JSS) leavers.
9. That government should strengthen the existing School Management Committees (SMCs) and work at establishing new ones where they do not exist to actively support community involvement in the management of schools
10. That Government needs to demonstrate the political will and commitment to implement educational policies. This will include finding the funds to support Education For All (EFA) with or without donor support

Done at Tamale this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of March in the year of our Lord 2005.

**SIGNATORIES TO THE COMMUNIQUE**

1. Mrs. Juliana Adu-Gyamfi -----  
GNECC IMC CHAIRPERSON
2. Mr. Michael Ansah -----  
GNECC SECRETARY
3. Mr. M. A. Jawula -----  
Northern Network for Education  
Development (NNED) Representative
4. Mr. Annan Forson -----  
Parents Representative
5. Alhaji Sadik Yakubu Bukari -----  
TUC,, Sunyani
6. Ms. Makafui Aidam -----  
POINT OF GRACE (VR)
7. Mr. Samuel Ofori Boateng -----  
ISODEC, Sunyani