I am delighted to have the opportunity to warmly welcome you all to our maiden edition of GES Today, our quarterly newsletter. It is my hope that you are all doing well and keeping safe in this era of COVID-19, by washing your hands regularly, wearing your masks and staying at home as much as possible.

At our last Staff Durbar at the GES Headquarters, we discussed the need to improve our communication and information dissemination within the GES. A sense of community within our Organisation is important so this newsletter will become a way to provide updates to ensure Staff are informed on issues going on within the GES, be it relational communication or employee communication. The newsletter will also shed light on the successes and challenges as well as our Organization policies and procedures.

I believe that you are all aware of the new curriculum for Pre-Tertiary that we are implementing now in KG to Primary 6. Around the country, you will also notice especially in our Senior High Schools, infrastructure improvements to support the Free SHS policy. Those who have visited our Headquarters will also attest to the major renovations as well as the enhancement of security to aid in the effective operations of our service. We at the GES are keen to see that our premises at the Headquarters and across the country does not only reflect our vision as a trusted and well-organised institution, but also for all our stakeholders to feel safe and secure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Editorial team for all their hard work in putting together the first edition of GES Today and I look forward to our future editions. I would also like to thank all Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff for their continuous hard work and support in shaping the image of this institution as we work to positively impact professional standards and conduct of our personnel. We are focused on ensuring that everything we do reflects our national aspirations of becoming a learning nation through learning schools and improved learning outcomes of our students.

Best Wishes,
Prof. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Chief Editor: Adwoa Osaebia Oduro-Konadu.
Deputy Editors: Isaac Asiedu-Odei, David-Albin Banamini.
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Proof reader: Maame Yaa Abrefa.
Designers: Jerry Godsway Tamakloe, Anthony Gyasi.
OUR ORGANIZATION
The Ghana Education Service (GES) was established in 1974 as part of the Public Service of Ghana by NRCD 247. The law was amended under the fourth Republican Constitution of Ghana by Acts of Parliament, including Act 506 (1994) and Act 778 (2008). The GES is governed by a fifteen-member Council called the GES Council. We focus on managing our resources both human and material to make education delivery relevant to the manpower needs of the nation. In line with the Education Strategic Plan 2018-2030, the GES is focused on ensuring that the educational aspirations of the Ghana which is to become a learning nation is achieved. We attain this by positioning ourselves as a learning Organization that uses our learnings including professional development to ensure that we ultimately have Schools that improve the learning outcomes of our students.

OUR VISION is to create an enabling environment in all educational institutions and management positions that will facilitate effective teaching and learning and efficiency in the management for the attainment of the goals of the Service.

OUR MISSION is to ensure that all Ghanaian children of school-going age are provided with inclusive and equitable quality formal education and training through effective and efficient management of resources to make education delivery relevant to the manpower needs of the nation.

OUR MANDATE is to implement pre-tertiary educational policies and programs to ensure that all Ghanaian children of school-going age irrespective of tribe, gender, disability, religious and political affiliations are provided with inclusive and equitable quality formal education.

OUR FUNCTIONS:
1. Providing and overseeing Basic Education (Pre-tertiary), Technical Education as well as Special Education Division.
2. Promoting efficiency and full development of talents among its members.
3. Carrying out such other functions that are incidental to the attainment of the functions.
4. Maintaining professional standards and the conduct of its personnel.
5. Recruiting and posting qualified teaching and non-teaching staff.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS:
- Employees
- Unions
- Students
- Parents
- Media
- General Public

“The Covid-19 pandemic which has led to the shut down of our schools has highlighted the value of our teachers as many parents continue to grapple with the challenges of children being home all the time.”

Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh
Minister of Education
OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Prof. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE

Lawyer Anthony Boateng
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
MANAGEMENT SERVICES (DDG M/S)

Dr. Kwabena Bempah Tandoh
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
QUALITY & ACCESS (DDG Q/A)

Adjoa van Vicker
DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (HRMD)

Adwoa Osaebey Oduro-Konadu
DIRECTOR, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Bernice Adea
DIRECTOR SPECIAL EDUCATION DIVISION (SPED)

Dr. Christian Koramoah
DIRECTOR FINANCE

Patty Assan
DIRECTOR SCHOOLS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Seth Danso Appau
ACTING DIRECTOR TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DIVISION (TVED)
GES ACTIVITY UPDATES

GES/MoE INTRODUCES ONLINE STUDY PLATFORM

Amidst the novel COVID-19 pandemic, which has ravaged normal human and social lives, the Ghana Education Service under the auspices of the Ministry of Education has designed student-friendly designated online app and TV Channels for utilization by its teeming students who are now home. Hitherto, there were various online and offline soft materials that have been placed in schools and libraries for students and teachers to access.

The emergence of COVID-19 leading to the closure of all Schools by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, has reignited the efforts in ensuring that these online apps and contents are synchronized for the fuller benefits of its core stakeholders, being students and teachers.

Currently, the content available are for Second-Cycle students, while KG to JHS contents are earnestly being prepared for loading onto the app and TV Channels. Please follow the process below to access the platform:

2. Enter your BECE index number as your username. Note: for SHS 3 students, add 17 to the index number E.g. 309074025 then 17 to read 30907402517.
3. Enter ghana@12345 as your default password and click on log in.
4. You will be required to change the default password before you can continue using the platform.
5. Click on View all courses to see the subjects available. Click on any of the courses available and enroll.

Benefits of the Platform

1. Access to all core subjects and selected electives.
3. Access to virtual labs and simulations (in some instances).
4. Access to online Test after every lesson.

PS: Please, do well to observe the necessary COVID-19 protocols and stay healthy as we await the eradication of this pandemic!

GES, MoE AGENCIES, GETS PICK-UPS, MOTORBIKES FROM GOVERNMENT

The Government, through the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund), has presented a total of 365 double cabin Isuzu pickups and 500 motorbikes to the Ghana Education Service (GES) and other agencies under the Ministry of Education. These presentations according to the Vice President, H.E Alhaji Dr Mamudu Bawumia, is a continuous demonstration of government’s commitment to ensuring that logistics are available to Institutions for their efficiency and effective administration.

All two hundred and sixty (260) District Education offices have been allocated a pick-up each and a number of motorbikes to all circuit supervisors.
The revised promotion process for the Staff of Ghana Education Service (GES), ended smoothly in all the 35 examination centres spread across the 16 Regions of Ghana. The first ever aptitude test for Staff promotion has replaced the hitherto face-to-face interview sessions that was fraught with challenges. The Director-General of the GES, Prof. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa, described the exercise as very equitable, fair and objective approach in ensuring that Staff of the Service go through a stress-free promotion. For this reason, the Standards-Based curriculum, was developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) to replace the Objective-Based curriculum. As part of plans to successfully implement the Standards-Based curriculum, NaCCA trained 150 master trainers from the Ghana Education Service (GES). The GES used the 150 master trainers that NaCCA trained to train 3,900 selected teachers from the 260 Districts in all 16 Regions as trainer of trainers, who in turn trained over 153,000 teachers on the Standards-Based curriculum. Currently the Standards-Based curriculum is being used from KG1 to P6 in schools nationwide.

These vehicles arrived timely as Education Directors, particularly, the newly created Districts for some time now decried the absence of vehicles and motorbikes for operational purposes.

“It’s the expectation of Government that these vehicles will go a long way to promote quality supervision in our Schools to enure improved learning outcomes”, the Vice President remarked.

The Director-General of the Ghana Education Service, Prof. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa, in his appreciation remarks, promised on behalf of his Directors to put the vehicles to good use to be able to realize the desired outcomes of the usage of the logistics.

GES FUMIGATES SCHOOLS

Zoomlion Ghana Limited under the auspices of GES is carrying out fumigation and disinfection of all SHS/SHTS/TVETS, private and public and Special Schools in the country.

The exercise started on Tuesday 14th April 2020. Heads of Schools have been advised to be present to supervise the exercise being undertaken by Zoomlion. GES management will ensure the smooth conduct of the fumigation exercise during this Covid-19 era.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARDS-BASED CURRICULUM

The inherent challenges in the existing Objective-Based curriculum needed to be addressed for it to respond to the national priority. In order to achieve this, there was the need to shift the structure and content of the education system from merely passing examinations to building character, nurturing values, and raising literate, confident, and engaged citizens who can think critically, be creative and innovative. For this reason, the Standards-Based curriculum, was developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) to replace the Objective-Based curriculum.

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MAIDEN GES STAFF PROMOTION EXAMS ENDS SMOOTHLY

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Girls’ Education Unit develops guidelines for pregnancy prevention and re-entry

The Girls’ Education Unit last year completed work on guidelines for the prevention of pregnancy among school girls and facilitation of re-entry into school after childbirth. This was followed with the printing of 50,000 copies of the guidelines which have been distributed to the 16 Regions for onward distribution to all pre-tertiary education institutions and relevant stakeholders across the country. As a result, a total of 5,919 teenage mothers have returned to school between 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 academic years to continue their education.

WAEC suspends 2020 WASSCE

The ravaging world pandemic Coronavirus has conspired and forced the West African Examination Council (WAEC) to postpone the scheduled 2020 examinations for Senior High Schools in the five member countries. This follows the closure of Schools in these countries as various Governments take up measures to contain the spread of this novel virus that sprang up in Wuhan, China, which has currently claimed 200,000 lives globally. The Ghana Education Service has welcomed the decision. In a press release dated March, 2020 signed by the Director-General, (Prof. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa) all Heads of Schools were directed to release all final year students that had been “detained” in preparations towards the 2020 BECE and WASSCE that were scheduled to begin on 6th June and 4th April 2020 respectively throught out the designated centres in the country.

GES & UNICEF holds dinner for right age enrolment influencers

The GES in collaboration with UNICEF held a dinner on Friday, 7th February 2020 in honour of the Influencers for the Right Age Enrolment (RAE) campaign at Alisa Hotel in Accra. The campaign was activated last year in all the selected 30 Districts and Municipalities across the country to get the message down to the people. Influencers for the campaign are carefully chosen individuals who have made a mark in society. They include:
2. Osagyefo Amoatia Ofori Panin, Okyehene.
3. Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education.

GES NEWS
Perkins International, an NGO nominated by the National Teaching Council together with the GES visited seven (7) selected Special Schools from seven regions to monitor and observe activities for the purposes of awarding them. At the end of the monitoring and observation, the Wa School for the Deaf won the ultimate prize for the year followed by the Cape Coast School for the Deaf/Blind and Gbi Kledzo Special School for the intellectually challenged. The rest of the schools selected included, Savelugu School for the Deaf, Akropong School for the Blind, Tetteh Ocloo State School for the Deaf and Bechem School for the Deaf.

Smart Box, a Non-Governmental Organisation based in the UK has donated communication devices to the GES at a short ceremony in Accra. The devices are meant to aid students/pupils with communication and speech difficulties in both the mainstream and special Schools of the GES. The Deputy Director-General of the GES in charge of Management Services, Lawyer Anthony Boateng (Esq.) received the items on behalf of the Service. In a brief remark, Mr. Boateng thanked Smart Box for the kind gesture and assured that the devices will be put to good use.

**NATIONAL TEACHING COUNCIL AWARDS SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

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**GES GETS COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

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**LEARNING MEETS DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION AND PROs ON T2E**

The USAID Ghana Partnership for Education: Learning, met Directors and Public Relation Officers (PROs) of Ghana Education Service on Tuesday February 18, 2020 in Kumasi to update them on the Transition to English (T2E) program. Learning, is a six-year USAID funded project in collaboration with Ministry of Education (MoE), Ghana Education Service (GES) and USAID to improve reading performance for early grade pupils in public primary Schools. The project was to use the success story of the Early Grade Reading (EGR) program it rolled out between 2017 and 2019 in partnership with MoE and GES to implement the T2E program. During the 2017-2019 academic years, more than 7,200 Schools in 100 Districts implemented the Early Grade Reading Program (EGRP) throughout 10 Regions of Ghana. 707,843 Kindergarten 2, Primary 1 and 2 pupils benefited from the project and over 51,000 Teachers, Head Teachers and Curriculum Leads received 3.1 million high-quality instructional materials and training in innovative reading instruction methodology.

A critical part of learning is the fidelity of implementation approach. This is a system used to monitor adherence to the curriculum and project approaches and is effectuated by Circuit Supervisors using tablets and real time data. The T2E program approach is to build on the EGR program successes by using systematic phonics-based reading with strong vocabulary, language comprehension, and writing that is linked to the recently introduced new curriculum. Directors and PROs were met
GES in partnership with Onga which is a subsidiary of Promasidor Ghana Limited organised a Cook Art Competition for Senior High Schools across the country in 2018/2019 academic year. At the end of the competition at the national level, Arch Bishop Poter Girls SHS in Takoradi-Western region came out first, followed by Sacred Heart SHS in Sunyani-Brong Ahafo region. The third and fourth positions were taken by St Francis of Asisi Girls’ SHS in Jirapa, Upper West region and Amanfiman SHS in Wasa Amamfi-Western region respectively. Participating Schools as well as students were awarded with Gas stoves, fridges, products and other accessories from ONGA.

GES-ONGA COOK ART COMPETITION FOR SHS

NEW INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

Busy Internet is now the new Internet Service Provider for GES. They are currently providing internet service for MoE, GES HQ, Regional offices and all SHS/TVET Schools across the country. So welcome them on board for a new internet experience.

BUSINESS ETIQUETTE

Indeed cleanliness is next to godliness. COVID-19 has made us all mindful of our surroundings and mine has not been any different. While I was wishing I could get some help in cleaning during COVID-19, I thought about how many offices including ours get their cleaning done by professional cleaning companies. This is all well and good but despite the good job they do, the office can still be a messy and germ-filled environment. The mess or uncleanliness is by and large due to the fact that we the individual workers do not keep our desks or personal workspaces clean and tidy. A clear desk directs us to clean our desks at the end of each work day. This not only includes documents and notes, but also post-its, business cards etc. This will amongst many other reasons help us reduce the risk of information theft, fraud, or a security breach caused by sensitive information being left unattended and visible in plain view. Does having an untidy desk or workspace mean that an individual is just as untidy and messy in their home or domestic environment? And can we also assume that the same principle applies to the owners of: Clean and Spotless desks?

TO BE CONTINUED...
# Staff Durbar

**GES INTRODUCES NEW BIOMETRIC ACCESS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Do’s</strong></th>
<th><strong>Don’ts</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ Place your fingers on the biometric device.</td>
<td>✗ Don’t allow other staff or visitors to tail-gate or follow you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Wait till your name appears on the device then open the door.</td>
<td>✗ Do not open the door for people to enter when they have not clocked in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Read the inscriptions on the doors for assistance.</td>
<td>✗ Do not allow visitors to use any of the two staff doors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Sign in any time you go in and out of the office.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Direct all visitors to the reception door.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NB:</strong> Your clock-in and clock-out is always recorded.</td>
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**Experience superior internet connectivity at our offices and educational institutions nationwide.**

**Courtesy of BusyInternet**
**Knowing You Knowing Me.**

**Question:** You are known by all as Gogo, but, what is your real name?
**Answer:** Ermm, first of all, Gogoe is not a nickname but part of my given names. My name is Emmanuel Gogoe Kwame Fio, take note please.

**Question:** How long have you been with GES and what is your role here?
**Answer:** I got my appointment with GES in 2004 with my first posting at the Headquarters and this is where I have been stationed till date (16 years now). Started at the Dispatch unit and later joined the Registry.

**Question:** Can you please tell us how a typical working day is for you?
**Answer:** Early morning visits to the Post Office to pick up all letters addressed to the HQ with intermittent visits, during the day, from the HQ to the Post Office to deliver and pick up urgent letters.

**Question:** If you are to describe your working experience in GES using a fruit, what fruit will it be?
**Answer:** Apple, so sweet like sometin…

**Question:** Where do you live?
**Answer:** Born and bred at LA, Accra. My whole life has been, and, still is at LA.

**Question:** Are you already hooked?
**Answer:** I’m not married or anything like that. BUT, I’m single and searching.

**Question:** What is your ideal family size?
**Answer:** I’m a family man. I love a large-sized family. I have eight children now, hoping to add more.

**Question:** What are your likes and dislikes?
**Answer:** What I dislike most would be disappointment; I would even say I hate it. At work I’m all about good working relationships and I like people who are goal-oriented.

**Question:** Favourite food?
**Answer:** As a typical GA man that I am, my favourite food is Banku. Give me Banku with anything and I’m done.

**Question:** Do you have any hobbies? What are they?
**Answer:** I love to sing and dance. If I’m not working, I might be someplace singing or dancing. Don’t forget that I am still the reigning champion for Best Dancer at the GES End of Year Party since 2018.

**Conclusion**

**Question:** Any advice to the staff here?
**Answer:** In my long years of service here, what I have learnt and share with everyone today is to focus on the job they came here to do, be good to everyone and go home; work and friendship ends here.

**Remarks**

It was fun having you on our maiden edition of knowing you, knowing me, Gogoe. Thank you.
Foot Count
Facebook: 64,574 followers, 62,453 likes.
Twitter: 1,293 followers.
Instagram: 2,478 followers.

Follow Us:
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