



UK Office
18 Seaton Drive
Aberdeen, UK
AB24 1UT
Phone: (+44) 1224951524

Ghana Office
No. 5 Whistler Street, Tesano
P.O. Box 4104 Kaneshie, Accra
Phone: (+233) 302202107

Our ref: V18/011/16

The Minister for Education
Ministry of Education
Ministries - Accra, Ghana
May 18, 2016

PETITION TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA THROUGH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON EXPLOITATION OF UNEMPLOYED GRADUATE TEACHERS BY THE GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE FOR AN APTITUDE TEST TO BE CONDUCTED ON 21ST MAY 2016

The Honourable Minister, VIAM Africa petitions your High Office in respect of a directive by the Ghana Education Service (GES) to extract an amount of sixty-two Ghana cedis only (GH¢62.00) from about 4,570 graduate teachers/applicants shortlisted to take part in an aptitude test to be conducted by GES on 21st May 2016.

Our attention has been drawn to this directive posted on the website of GES, wherein it has been advertised that GES would be recruiting graduate teachers to teach English Language, Maths, Science and Geography at the Senior High School level. Clearly by this advertisement put up by GES, graduate teachers/applicants are required to make this payment to GES before they would be even considered to take part in the aptitude test for their recruitment into the education service.

Respectfully, VIAM Africa is opposed to this directive given by GES. GES is a public institution funded with the taxes of taxpayers. These taxpayers include these graduate teachers themselves. It is therefore unjust, unfair and discriminatory for GES to extract this amount from these desperate graduate teachers. They are unemployed and they have no means to pay this sum. For GES to demand this amount from these desperate job seekers who are about 4,570 graduate teachers/applicants is crude exploitation, pure and simple. Thus, an unjustified mode of accumulating wealth for the sector. These graduate teachers are desperate for jobs and that is the more reason why they have availed themselves to be employed by GES. GES is not an employment agency.

The Honourable Minister, the directive of GES even becomes more appalling by the fact that, with companies and or institutions specifically set up to make profit, employers do not charge job seekers a fee for an aptitude test. GES is set up to provide service and not a profit

making venture. The services to be rendered by these graduate teachers are practically a selfless one and thus a contribution to the development of this country. Charging them for an aptitude test is unfortunate. These graduate teachers/applicants rather need to be motivated and not to be discouraged. Again, there is no guarantee that all these graduate teachers would pass this aptitude test for their employment. A person's total capabilities cannot be hinged on one single aptitude test. The question that lures its head then is what becomes of these monies collected from these applicants if they should fail the test. The logical conclusion is that the state would have unjustifiably benefitted at the expense of students who need to be taught so badly.

The Honourable Minister, we therefore appeal to your Ministry and office to take steps to halt this exercise to be conducted by GES as their intended act is an affront to the development of this country. Their directive is exploitation in itself and must be reversed as soon as possible. These selfless graduate teachers must be allowed to take the aptitude test without paying a fee (even though we do not think a pass in the test could be a good predictor of an effective teacher).

The Honourable Minister, we thank you and believe that our petition will be given an expeditious and favourable response.

Best regards.

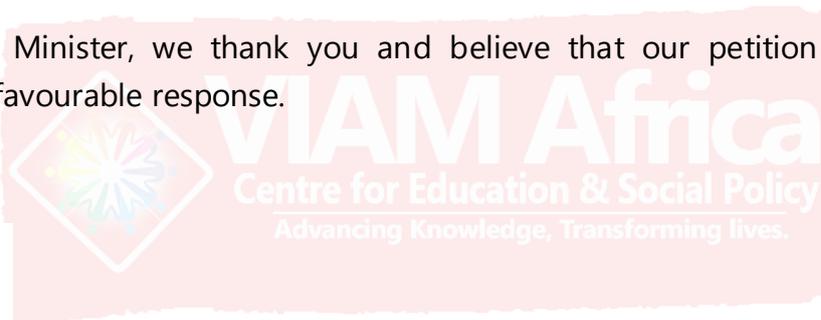


Prince Armah, PhD
Executive Director
VIAM Africa

Cc:

**The Presidency
Republic of Ghana
Flagstaff House
Accra**

**The Director-General
Ghana Education Service
Accra**



About VIAM Africa

VIAM Africa Centre for Education and Social Policy is one of Africa's leading progressive think tanks which provide independent reviews of education and social policies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Our head office is in Aberdeen-United Kingdom, with VIAM Africa (Ghana), VIAM's dedicated think tank for Ghana, operating out of offices in Accra. VIAM Africa was established in 2013 to shape the education and social policy debate through evidence. We are Africa-wide, independent and non-partisan. We are funded by organisations and individuals that wish to see a vibrant education and social policy debate and reform as well as through our own events. Visit us at <http://www.viam africa.com/>



Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah
Board Chairman, VIAM Africa (UK)
Mr. Steven Kyerematen
Board Chairman, VIAM Africa (Ghana)

Prince Armah, PhD
Executive Director, VIAM Africa
Email: edirector@viam africa.com
Twitter: @pkarmah

