



For Immediate Release

All Media Houses

EDUWATCH 2022 WASSCE GHANA MONITORING REPORT LAUNCHED

Eduwatch has launched its 2022 WASSCE Ghana Monitoring Report. The report is an outcome of monitoring the 2022 WASSCE online and in 33 purposively sampled examination centres (comprising private and public schools) across the country between July and September 2022. Findings from the report include:

1. **Online leakages in two (2) of 12 papers monitored:** Questions for the Elective Mathematics 2 and Core Mathematics 2 papers leaked nine (9) hours before their scheduled time to be written.
2. **Enhanced questions security:** The involvement of the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), a.k.a BNI, in the printing of questions led to minimal incidences of question leakages compared to WASSCE 2021. The BNI's involvement, which was highly impactful on questions security, was facilitated by the Minister of Education.
3. **Increased incidences of institutional fraud:** Reduced leakages meant increased exam centre fraud. There were reports of cash collection between GHC 300 to GHC 3,000 from candidates by some school authorities in return for supervised cheating. In some schools, questions were solved and transmitted through WhatsApp platforms or written on whiteboards for candidates to copy during the exams. Specific 'stongrooms' were designated by some school authorities for solving the questions before transmitting to students.
4. **Inadequate and ineffective external supervision:** Out of 776 supervisors deployed to 776 centres, only 18% were external from WAEC with the majority (82%) being staff of the Ghana Education Service (GES), a situation which raises potential Conflict of Interest since the WASSCE pass rate is a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for school heads and other GES directors.

Africa Education Watch.

25 Nii Torgbor Avenue, ARS, East Legon.

Tel. 0303975001 | Email: info@africaeducationwatch.org | Twitter & Facebook: @AfricaEduWatch

www.africaeducationwatch.org



5. **Ineffective serialisation:** There was limited serialization in the multiple-choice (objective) questions at the regional level. However, questions dealers were already aware that multiple-choice questions would be unique for each region before the commencement of the exams.
6. **No urgency by the police in prosecuting examination fraud suspects:** A year after Eduwatch submitted a formal complaint to the Director-General of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) with evidence on the source of leaked questions, and some school authorities involved in institutionalized cheating during 2021 WASSCE, no formal feedback has been received. A formal follow-up petition to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) also yielded no response, as the same perpetrators continued to sell questions during the 2022 WASSCE.
7. **Weak enforcement:** Even after Corruption Watch Ghana's video documentary which exposed fraudulent schemes of management, teachers and invigilators at All for Christ and Duadaso SHTS in the Bono region during WASSCE 2021, All For Christ SHTS was still used as a centre for the 2022 WASSCE. Our petition to the Director General of GES to interdict perpetrators (Duadaso SHTS) in the video and withdraw the approval of All for Christ SHTS - a private SHTS in line with section 42(b) of the Pre-Tertiary Education Law, is yet to receive a formal response after several months.
8. **Strong community participation in examination fraud:** There is a strong community participation in examination fraud in some communities. This includes traditional authorities, opinion leaders and parents.
9. **WASSCE is a do or die affair:** For many parents and students, passing WASSCE is a must, as there are no immediate career progression paths to tertiary level after failure to pass WASSCE. In addition, one cannot qualify for public sector jobs like the security services, teaching etc without a pass. This, coupled with the high cost of private remedial schooling, is a major driver of examination fraud.



The report, among others, recommends that:

1. The Ministry of Education convenes a national forum on external assessment to enable a broad, participatory review leading to a reform of Ghana's external assessment system with focus on governance, relevance and quality assurance.
2. The Ministry of Education establishes a regulatory body for the assessment sector or give NaCCA that additional mandate through an amendment of the Education Regulatory Bodies Law. The regulator will set and enforce standards, impose sanctions for non-compliance, receive public complains and regulate the operations of all agencies in the pre-tertiary assessment space, including WAEC.
3. The Ministry of Education reviews the necessary legal and policy instruments to redefine the relationship between government and WAEC by removing the GES Director General from the Governing Council of WAEC. This will reduce any potential for conflict of interest.
4. Ministry of Education and Parliament supports an amendment of the WAEC Act (Act 719) to criminalize the various new types of examination fraud.
5. The Ministry of Education seeks the buy-in of WAEC member countries in assessment sector reform (including serialization) agenda to curb examination centre cheating.
6. WAEC stops using GES staff as external supervisors. The GES cannot externally self-supervise their own in an exam in which many GES invigilators, supervisors, including school heads are at the centre of exam fraud for profit.
7. GES adopts a KPI that rewards SHS heads based on the record of no examination fraud during WASSCE. This will checkmate the current KPI for school heads on WASSCE pass rate.
8. GES sanctions staff involved in examination fraud per their code of conduct.



9. The CID investigates and prosecute perpetrators of examination fraud with evidence provided in petitions submitted by WAEC and Eduwatch during and after the 2021 WASSCE.
10. The National House of Chiefs, Religious Bodies and Parent-Teacher Associations collaborate on a community-centred campaign against examination fraud.
11. The Ministry of Education must explore the possibility of providing access to market-led, pre-university distance programmes for candidates who score at least E8 in all subjects, to improve and pursue careers. This would ensure WASSCE candidates who do not score F in their core or electives are supported to upgrade.

Eduwatch is grateful for the support of its undercover monitors and other partners within the assessment sector. Eduwatch is ready to assist with further information to enable any investigations leading to accountability to accountability.

Accra, October 27, 2022.

AFRICA
EDUCATION WATCH

The full report is available via the link below:

<https://africaeducationwatch.org/publication/eduwatch-2022wassce-ghana-monitoring-report>

For interviews, inquiries, contact the Eduwatch WASSCE Monitoring Team:
030 395 7001 / 050 864 7224 or wasscedesk@eduwatch.info