

In case of reply, the number and date of this letter should be quoted.
Tel.Nos.233-21-683629/683634/682646
Email: info@moe.gov.gh



Ministry of Education
Ministry Branch Post Office
P.O. Box MB.45
Accra

My Ref No. FA 355/480/01

3RD January, 2016.

REJOINDER

RE: MAJORITY OF GHANAIS UNABLE TO COMPLETE SECONDARY EDUCATION – UNESCO REPORT

We wish to correct some inaccuracies in a story culled from GNA published on page 14 of the Tuesday, 22nd November, 2016 edition of The Ghanaian Times under the above caption.

In the second paragraph of the story, it was stated, *“The first of a new series of post-2015 reports said 53 percent of students in Ghana were able to complete Junior High School (JHS) education while only 39 percent were able to complete Senior High School education”*.

The story was in relation to the Global Education Monitoring(GEM) 2016 report which is available on line, has no such figures.

According to the report, considering the Junior High School age population of Ghana, the Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio is 93%, which represents an improvement in the year 2015 percentage of 91. It is worth mentioning that the current population of school children transiting from Primary to Junior High School level is 98% and one of the best performances in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It further stated that the Completion Rate at any level of education is defined as *the percentage of students completing the last year of that level of education*. The completion rate is one of the indicators for the attainment of one of the six targets of the Education for All (EFA) goals during the period of the Millennium Development Goals (2000 – 2015). It considered the percentage of students in a particular cohort completing a level of education irrespective of the ages of the students in the cohort. However, for the new

Sustainable Development Goal on Education, SDG 4 (Education 2030), Age-specific completion rate indicators are now being implored.

In that context, the Completion Rate is the percentage of students completing the last year of education at the right or official age for that level of education. As per Ghana's educational structure, the right or official age for completing Primary level of education is 12 years; 15 years for JHS and 18 years for SHS.

For the year under review by the GEM (2014/15), the completion rate (taking into account the number that enter JHS 1 and are able to complete JHS 3 irrespective of their ages) is 73.5% (Source: EMIS Data), but not 53%.

The **Age-specific completion rate of 53% reported by GEM**, is the number of children who completed JHS within the national population at the right age of 15 years. This did not take into account the children who completed JHS at an age lower or above 15 years. This means that the 53% is not representative of all the children who completed JHS in the year under review.

This mean that the difference (73.5% – 53%) of 20.5% are either under-age or over-age children who completed JHS in the year under review

As regards data on Senior High School level, the same argument applies. The completion rate, irrespective of age, is 44.5%. The 35% completion rate captured by the report (Page 423) is also age-specific.

It is our hope that you will give our rejoinder the needed attention that it deserves so as not to paint a bad picture of the achievements Ghana has made in education which is being acknowledged worldwide.

SIGNED
DAN OSMAN MWIN
HEAD,PUBLIC RELATIONS.