

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FORUM ON THE CONVERSION OF POLYTECHNICS TO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

THEME: REPOSITIONING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AS A DRIVER OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Having considered the Draft Bill and report on the Conversion of Polytechnics to Technical Universities in Ghana,

Recognizing the need to promote technical and vocational education in Ghana,

Realizing the role technical and vocational education play in the development of economies,

Desirous to rebrand technical education in Ghana as a strategic initiative to drive economic growth, wealth creation, mitigate unemployment, alleviate poverty,

Cognizant of the need to develop high level technical skills to drive the country's economic and national development agenda, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, in his 2013 State of the Nation's address announced the intention of the government to upgrade Polytechnics in the country to Technical Universities,

Having considered the pronouncement of the President, the Ministry of Education constituted a nine (9) member Technical Committee in September 2013 chaired by Dr. George Afeti to develop a roadmap for the conversion of the Polytechnics to Technical Universities,

Affirming their mandate, the committee held series of meetings, content reviews, visitations and international benchmarks and presented their output in a form of a report to the Ministry,

Acknowledging the role of stakeholders, the Ministry of Education on 6th January 2015, organized a Stakeholder's Consultative Forum to engage Policy Makers, Academia, Industry, Civil Society Organizations, Educationists, Development Partners, Informal Sectors and Students to validate the report of the Technical Committee as well as the Draft Bill for the consideration of Parliament,

Whereas about 150 participants and resource persons drawn from education and training institutions, industry, policy makers, youth and students, met at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel and in the spirit of nationalism deliberated on the above subject,

The stakeholders resolved to adopt as amended the recommendations of the Committee:

- 1.1 To upgrade the existing Polytechnics in Ghana to Technical Universities.
- 1.2 To initiate action to review the Polytechnics Act 2007 (Act 745) to reflect the changes in status to Technical Universities.
- 1.3 To oblige the Technical Universities not to mimic the Traditional Universities but to carve a niche as vocationally oriented and career-focused higher education institutions, producing highly skilled personnel to support economic growth and national development.
- 1.4 To establish the Technical Universities mainly as technological institutions to impact employable and entrepreneurial skills to students and actively engage in applied research and delivery of technological solutions to businesses and industry.
- 1.5 To develop a strategic roadmap (developmental plan) for the transition of the Polytechnics to Technical Universities.
- 1.6 To endorse the eligibility criteria and conditions set out by the Committee and to ensure that existing Polytechnics satisfy the agreed eligibility criteria and conditions for the conversion of the Polytechnics to Technical Universities.
- 1.7 To explore the possibility of having experienced Professors seconded or recruited from Universities in Ghana and abroad to support the new Technical Universities during their formative years.
- 1.8 To ensure that the Technical Universities appoint Lecturers and Professors with professional and industrial experience. In this regard, the requirements for promotion of Technical University Lecturers should be differentiated from those of Traditional Universities.
- 1.9 To provide funding allocations to the converted Polytechnics in commensuration with their status as Technical Universities by ensuring that the recurrent budgetary allocation to the converted Polytechnics be at a level that corresponds to at least 50% of the unit cost for training students.
- 1.10 To establish a formal agreement with DAAD by initiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and ensure that the Technical Universities benchmark the model of the Universities of Applied Sciences (the former *Fachhochschulens*) in Germany.
- 1.11 To collaborate strongly with industry in the transition and implementation process.
- 1.12 To undertake critical evaluation of the current state of Polytechnics so as to ensure that the conversion process is successful, it is recommended that the effective start date for converting the Polytechnics to Technical Universities should be **September, 2016**.
- 1.13 To provide financial provision for a targeted staff development programme for the Polytechnics in preparation for their conversion to Technical Universities.

- 1.14 To constitute an Expert Implementation Panel to advise on the eligibility of each Polytechnic for conversion to Technical University as well as provide technical expertise to support the institutions during the transition period.
- 1.15** To Establish an Implementation Committee (IC) to ensure transparency and equity of the reform process and the implementation of the key strategic actions towards an effective transition.

Stakeholder Consultative Forum

6th January, 2015