

# WAEC set to organise 2024 BECE

## ..receives GH¢47m from govt

BY JULIUS YAO PETETSI

**G**OVERNMENT has released GH¢47.125 million to the West African Examination Council (WAEC) for the conduct of this year's Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).

The amount, according to the Council, represents 49 per cent of the GH¢95.83 million owed the examination management body by the government.

Head of Public Relations at the WAEC, John Kapi, told Accra based 3FM that contrary to assertion by the Majority Chief Whip, Frank Annoh-Dompreh, that GH¢80 million had been released to the Council, only GH¢47 million had hit the accounts of the WAEC as at Friday, June 21, 2023.

Even that, he explained, was being processed through the Government Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS), and was yet to be translated into real cash.

"The document that we received from the government today is a warrant that from the Finance Ministry for an amount of GH¢47.125 million. The warrant I have is not GH¢80 million. It is GH¢47.125 million," he clarified.

The amount, Mr Kapi said, could only be used to conduct the exams and that the balance would be needed to process the results after the exams and pay its debtors.

"We would be able to conduct the examination but then we will need more funds to be able to process the results and also we

would need more funds in order to be able to pay our debtors," he added.

He explained that as part of the pre-examination preparations, the Council procured some examination stationery like answer booklets for GH¢12.6million, bought bond paper for printing at the cost of GH¢48 million and purchased pencils to the tune of GH¢1.146 million.

Everything but money, Mr Kapi said was in place for the Council to proceed with the exercise scheduled for between July 8 and July 15, 2024 across the country.

"On our part, we have managed to get bond paper to print our question papers. So all preliminary preparations have been done. What we need is to get money from the government and then

we send our officers out there and conduct the examination.

"In view of that, we are afraid we might have to postpone the exam because there is no money anywhere for us to use for the examination," he told Accra based JoyFM earlier on Friday, June 21, 2024.

Mr Annoh-Dompreh, MP, Nsawam-Adoagyiri, told the plenary of Parliament on Friday that "significant releases" had been made to the Council for the conduct of the examinations and that fears of a postponement should not be entertained.

Responding to the issue on the floor when it was raised by the MP for Bole-Bamboi, Yusif Suleman, Mr Annoh-Dompreh said himself and the Minority Chief Whip had followed up on

the issue when it first came to the limelight and the confirmation was that GH¢80 million had been released.

"Myself and the minority chief followed up and spoke with the Minister of State (at the Ministry of Finance), Abena Osei-Asare. She got back to the ministry, did all her checks and confirmed that indeed they have...released an amount of GH¢80 million".

The BECE is the annual examination for final year students in both private and public Junior High Schools to transit to Senior High School.

It was introduced in 1990 to replace the four-year Middle School Leaving Certificate with the three-year JHS system following the review of the education policy of Ghana in 1987.