

MoE moves to boost digital learning in SHSs

BY RAISSA SAMBOU

THE Ministry of Education (MoE), through the Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS), has introduced the iBox and iCampus Learning Management Systems (LMS), to enhance digital learning, particularly in underserved communities.

The iBox, is an offline LMS, designed for Senior High School (SHS) students in remote areas, to provide access to curriculum-aligned subjects and Open Educational Resources (OER).

The Minister of Education, Mr Haruna Iddrisu, disclosed this while answering questions about the sector ministry on the floor of Parliament, yesterday.

He said the government was intensifying efforts to bridge the digital divide in rural schools through initiatives aimed at modernising education and ensuring equal access to learning resources for students across the country.

The iBox system, Mr Iddrisu said, served as a content access point, allowing students to con-

nect via Wi-Fi or Ethernet, even without internet access.

He said the iBox was deployed in 240 SHSs, benefiting over 120,000 students.

Mr Iddrisu said with support from UNESCO, the iBox initiative has been expanded under the Technology-Enabled Open School System (TEOS) project, to include basic schools, ensuring uninterrupted learning, especially during crises such as pandemics.

He explained that the iCampus, on the other hand, was an online platform offering similar educational resources, but required internet connectivity.

These initiatives, according to Mr Iddrisu, reflected the government's commitment to digital inclusion in education.

"The deployment of digital tools is critical to providing equal learning opportunities, particularly for students in remote areas," he added.

Additionally, Mr Iddrisu stated that the government was working with development partners to roll out more digital interventions, to bridge the educational gap between rural and urban schools.

In a related development, the

Minister provided an update on ongoing infrastructure projects, at Diaso SHS, in the Upper Denkyira West District of the Central Region.

He said the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund) was funding projects for the school, which has a student population of 1,383.

Mr Iddrisu revealed that two contractors, Messrs Sarbert Investment Limited and Messrs Winjet Ghana Limited, were awarded contracts in December 2019, to construct dormitories, staff housing, an administration block, and other facilities.

He said work on the project was slow due to funding challenges adding, "Sarbert Investment Limited was responsible for constructing the boys' and girls' dormitories and the administration block at a revised contract sum of GH¢21.4 million."

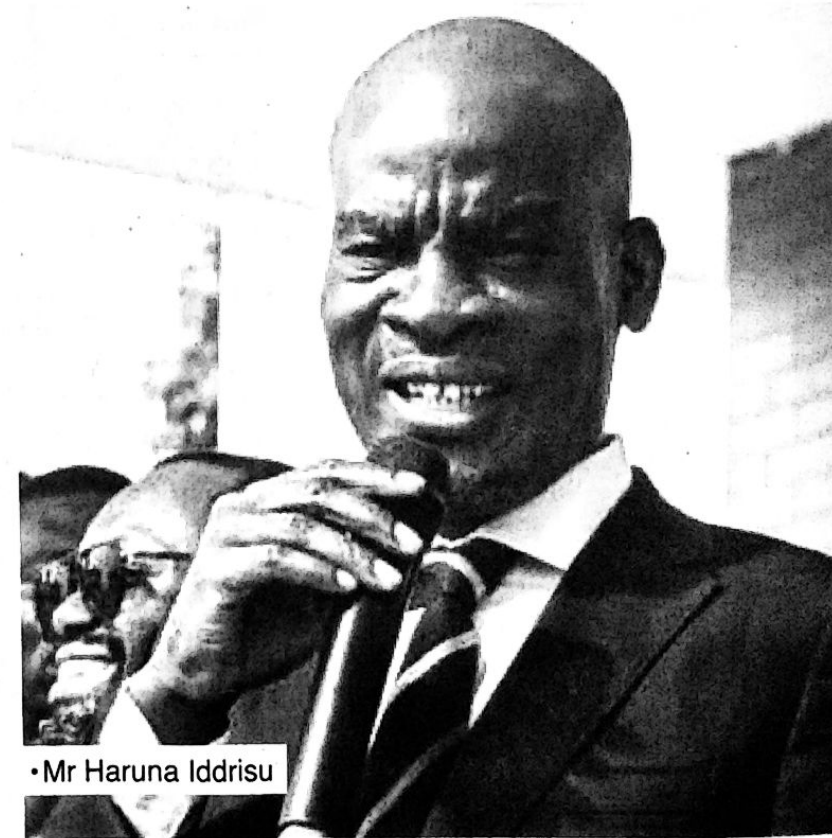
He explained that "As of May 2024, the boys' dormitory was 74 per cent complete, the girls' dormitory 50 per cent, and the administration block 98 per cent with the overall progress at 60 per cent."

Mr Iddrisu said that due to delays, the contract has been

terminated, and the project will be re-awarded upon financial clearance.

"Winjet Ghana Limited, responsible for building the headmaster and assistant headmaster's bungalows, a three-storey teachers' flat, an assembly hall, and a dining

hall with a kitchen, has made more progress, with an overall completion rate of 88 per cent. However, external works is yet to commence, as the contractor is awaiting outstanding payments from GETFund," he said.



•Mr Haruna Iddrisu