



Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

PRESS RELEASE (April 23rd, 2022)

Reopening of Public Schools for Third Term (25th April – 15th July 2022)
and Other Important Information

- 1. The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) would like to remind all parents, teachers and students that schools will reopen for Third Term on Monday April 25th, 2022 and close on July 15th, 2022.**

All students, teachers and staff are expected to be in school from this date right through to the end of the term. Each day is critical in ensuring that all learners complete their syllabuses and are getting relevant skills. Teachers have been trained on the updated Continuous Assessment Manuals and are expected to use this for learners moving forward. MBSSE continues to work closely with all stakeholders (school leaders, teachers and parents) for the effective delivery of quality education in Sierra Leone.

- 2. The Ministry also notes with dismay that there are serious misinformation and fake materials being shared online by various anonymous persons, many of whom are using foreign numbers. Further investigation reveals that many of these persons engaged in these acts are not teachers. Our teachers are committed to their profession and are not planning to stay away from school. We would like to invite the public to engage government on teacher matters officially through the Teaching Service Commission, Ombudsman's Office, Anti-Corruption Commission and several other avenues including a digital public grievance redress and complaint platform (<https://grm.tsc.gov.sl/>). Teacher matters must be taken seriously. We stand by our teachers, we honour them, and we'll continue to work together with them in the interest of all our children.**

- 3. We are pleased to update the public that last week, the government completed the payment of SLL 58,927,640,000 as Second Term subsidy/tuition fees for 2,409,851 children in 7,818 schools. In addition, government is scheduled to pay to WAEC SLL 86,636,427,000 for 610,488 students taking national and international examination. Pupils in private schools also benefit from this exam fee subsidy at the NPSE and BECE levels.**

For the information of the public, the following are the dates for this year's national transition examinations:

- National Primary School Examination (NPSE): May 7th, 2022 (161,524 candidates)
- West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE): May 9th, 2022 – June 24th, 2022 (191,266 candidates)
- Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE): July 25th, 2022 – August 3rd, 2022 (PROVISIONAL) (191,266 candidates)

- 4. The public is also informed that as part of the Free Education Project, public primary schools will be given Performance Based Financing grants this third term. Each school will be expected to develop a School Improvement Plan as well as meet specific targets including attendance of staff and students.**

- 5. Finally, the Ministry and the Teaching Service Commission regularly engage teachers and their various unions and organizations including the Sierra Leone Teacher's Union (SLTU), Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools (CPSS) and the National Council of Head Teachers (NaCoHT). In addition to the recent quarterly meeting held at MBSSE, a follow-up engagement has been scheduled with the leaders of these teacher organizations as we seek to address the challenges and associated opportunities related to "Teachers, Teaching and the Teaching Profession" – a topic being discussed globally in preparation for the United Nations Secretary General's Transforming Education Summit Co-Chaired by H.E President Julius Maada Bio.**

Thank you for your continued support of the Sierra Leone's Human Capital Development efforts.

Moinina David Sengh (Minister, MBSSE)