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Basic Education Minister Catalogued Strive in Improving Teaching, Teachers' Condition

The Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Dr. David Moinina Sengeh had highlighted status and progress made by the government in ensuring that there is improvement in teaching, teachers and the Teaching Profession in the country. The Minister spoke on this on Friday 15th April during the Bo School Annual Speech Day in Bo District.

He said the government recognizes the importance of teachers and teaching so much that in the Sierra Leone People Party's Manifesto and the government's Human Capital Development plans, "Improving the Conditions of Teachers" and "Increasing the Number of Qualified Teachers" in the classrooms are core priorities. **Contd Pg 3**



Mohamed Lamin Sesay

Basic Education Minister Commends Boys School Magburaka

The Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Dr. David Moinina Sengeh has regarded the Government Secondary School for Boys Magburaka as the most disciplined school he has visited in the country and calls on other public-school authorities to emulate.

The Minister made this disclosure recently in a town hall meeting with Principals and school heads from public and private schools in the Western Area to discuss the poor attendance of students and teachers in Schools.

During his last visit to commend the school for their excellent performance in the WASSCE, he was amazed at the way the students were comporting themselves even without teachers telling them to observe decorum. He said the school principal Mr. Mohamed Lamin Sesay goes to work daily at 6:00 am and signed the school register like other teachers. "Government Secondary School for Boys Magburaka got 100% pass in the West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and this is not the first time they have done this. People might want to relate it to examination malpractice; but if you visit the classroom setting you will know that students will find it extremely difficult to cheat," he said.

The Minister said during his last visit, he met the students in SSS 1 class taking an exam and the atmosphere at the time resembled that of WASSCE, noting that the question papers are printed with index number, stamp and signed answer booklets.

He reminded other principals that Boys School Magburaka is a government with similar challenges like theirs.

According to the Principal of Government Secondary School for Boys Magburaka Mr Mohamed Lamin Sesay, the visit by the minister is the very first time an education minister is visiting the school just to commend them for their hard work, noting that he thought the Minister when he was a teacher at Prince of Wales Secondary School King Tom so to have his former pupil now as his boss is a great achievement for him as a teacher.

"We scored 100% in 2016, 2017 but people were trivializing it based on the fact that the then Minister of Education was a past student of the school. I am very happy that we have done it again in 2021 when Dr Bah is no longer the minister," he said.

Radical Inclusion

“We are no longer discriminated against in Schools”-Visual Impaired Girl

She is not attending Milton Margai School for the Blind, neither is she schooling in the city or any of the district headquarter Towns, Magdalene Hawa Korgay is a pupil of National Senior Secondary School Luawa Chiefdom Kailahun District, the implementation of the Radical Inclusion Policy has enabled her to acquire education in a learning atmosphere devoid of discrimination. This National Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools seeks to ensure that schools throughout Sierra Leone are accessible to, and inclusive of, all children – especially those that are typically marginalised or excluded. In particular, the policy focuses on four excluded and marginalized groups: children with disabilities; children from low-income families; children in rural and underserved areas; and girls - especially girls who are currently pregnant and in school or are parent learners. “In the past, colleague pupils use to mock persons with disability in schools and we were even struggling to access teaching and learning materials for visual impaired. But that has changed, in mv school. there is no

Before I sat to the BECE I was told that I can

get admission into whatever school I desired and that was what happened,” she said.

Dr. David Moinina Sengh Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education said the ultimate goal of this policy is to generate a critical mass of highly educated, trained, and skilled Sierra Leoneans with the capacity to fulfill their potential, contribute to the national and global economy, and deliver better leadership and services in the public sector, noting that the Ministry is grateful for the opportunity to provide the first ever policy on radical inclusion in education in Sierra Leone.

“We are very happy that the 2020/2021 Academic Year subvention had been paid including backlog. This enabled us to put things in place for the smooth running of the new academic year. In the past, we don’t normally receive our subvention early so that usually led to the late reopening of our school,” according to Mr. Sallieu Turay Headteacher of the Milton Margai School for the Blind in an interview last year October.



Magdalene Hawa Korgay

He said last academic year, they received their third and fourth quarter subventions which are pivotal to proper planning of the academic year, adding that the promised was made by the Ministry and he worked towards that.

“We thanked the MBSSE particularly the Minister Dr. David Moinina Sengh for not only introducing the Radical Inclusion Policy, but also implementing what the policy dictates. The Minister has manifested that he has passion for not only children, but children with special needs,” according to Madam Winifred Coullier Headteacher National School for the Deaf.

The 2021 Concord Times Nation Builders Awards Night awarded the National Policy on Radical Inclusion in Schools as the Most Impactful Policy of the Year.

“I want to commend the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education for what he has done for persons with disability. He has been very pivotal in ensuring that I acquire education beyond Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in my Chiefdom. My first term grades are very much encouraging and I am happy,” Magdalene said.

MBSSE Trains School Leaders on the Implementation of the New SSS Curriculum



Training session in Bo District

Leh Wi Lan and the Teaching Service Commission in the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) Curriculum and Research Directorate recently concluded the training of Senior Secondary School (SSS) Principals in various locations in the country on the implementation of the New SSS Curriculum.

The training took place in Freetown, Waterloo, Bo, Kenema, Port Loko, Makeni, and Kono.

It has taken decades without the country having a national curriculum, with no national teaching syllabus for decades, and schools have been using WAEC examination syllabuses which do not address the holistic needs of learners and national economic development. The current system is only based on passing WASSCE exams.

“School leaders should not only concentrate on passing the WASSCE exams; but also to shape the students to become good citizens who can be contributive to the overall economic development of the country. The new curriculum exposes the children to 21st century skills which are: problem solving abilities, critical thinking, creativity, communicational skills, computational skills, civic mindedness, collaboration, decisions making and many more. These will breed learners of higher integrity and ready to work for the development of Sierra Leone,” according to the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education Dr. David Moinina Sengeh. During the different engagements, school leaders called on the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) and MBSSE to recruit more Science teachers, hold on to the implementation of the New SSS Curriculum until all chiefdoms in the country have a well-equipped laboratory in schools. Calling on the government to ensure that teachers are better paid, motivated and respected by both the Ministry and communities for the jobs they do as teachers, noting that teachers’ salary should be harmonized for all not by professional qualification. They call for the availability of adequate teaching and other learning resources for the implementation of selected streams and subjects successfully. School leaders suggested that they work with Guidance Counselors and parents to help learners to choose streams and subjects.

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He said a total of more than 2,930 School Heads in Primary, JSS and SSS from all sixteen (16) districts have undergone a “Teacher Professional Management” course, adding that 1,400 teachers have been trained in all districts on how to provide effective continuous assessment to students using an updated manual developed by the ministry last year.

According to the minister, 1,479 Class 6 and JSS teachers from underperforming schools (that is those who got 0% pass rates) were trained through distance learning on how to help their students prepare for and be successful in exams. While freely available online, over 20,000 printed supplementary materials were distributed to pupils in these schools.

He said 2,871 newly recruited teachers were inducted as a way of better preparing them for success in the classrooms.

“Sierra Leone launched the Radio Teaching Program immediately COVID-19 hit. We trained 3,456 teachers in five districts: Kambia, Moyamba, Western Rural, Western Urban and Kailahun. The beneficiaries were in Classes P1-P3 who learned to effectively deliver lessons in foundational reading, writing and numeracy skills to pupils in these classes and enable them to improve their performance in understanding and applying these skills in the classroom and beyond,” he said.

“When you add these numbers and just between 2018 and 2022, we have trained over 22,000 teachers and that includes community and volunteer teachers. Can I tell you a secret? We did most of these training during the COVID-19 period when other countries were still wondering what to do. I want to be first to say that yes there are lots of challenges and in spite of those, the evidence of the impact of these activities over the last four years are evident for all to see,” he said.

How to build your future

with the new Senior Secondary School Curriculum...

- 1**
Choose your specialist stream
 Sciences & Technologies
 Languages & Literature
 Mathematics & Numeracy
 Social and Cultural Studies
 Economics, Business & Entrepreneurship
- 2**
Pick your subjects
 Core: 3 or 4 options from your specialist stream
 Applied: 1 or 2 options from your specialist stream and 1 or 2 options from other streams
 Everyday: 1 or 2 options from other streams (not your specialisation)
- 3**
Enjoy learning new knowledge and skills based on your interests and talents!
- 4**
Choose your own future:
 university, employment or entrepreneurship



Building Young Futures
 MBSSE's Senior Secondary School Curriculum




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