

826,717 to sit for WASSCE, BECE

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A TOTAL of 826,717 candidates are expected to sit for the 2018 West African Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).

Out of the number, 509,737 will sit for the BECE while 316,980 candidates will write the WASSCE.

The Head of Test Administration Division of West Africa Educational Council (WAEC), Ms Jemima Vanderpuje, disclosed this at the maiden WAEC educational seminar for the media held in Accra on Tuesday.

It brought together more than 50 media practitioners who were schooled on the activities of the

examination council.

Ms Vanderpuje revealed that, candidature kept increasing by the year and was confident that soon they could reach 1million registration each year due to the free Senior High School (SHS) policy.

She assured the public of the sincerity of the examination council saying "WAEC does not take pleasure in the failure of candidates."

"All examination scripts are safe with us, there is nothing like candidates' failure is WAEC success, as many assume. The only thing we hate is cheating and we don't spare culprits when they are caught and we do that just to ensure the right thing is done," she stressed.

Importantly, Ms Vanderpuje explained that WAEC would not stop sanctioning defaulters of their

rules to promote sanity in their activities and also increase public trust in her outfit.

She revealed that WAEC stopped issuing certificates because most schools and individuals do not come for them.

She said the examination council had certificates which date up to more 15 years backwards "that is why we have stopped issuing certificates unless requests are made."

In his welcome address, the head of the Ghana National Office of WAEC, Reverend Sam Nmai Ollennu mentioned that examination malpractice leads to poor reliability of examination results.

He further explained that, if the examinations are not good then the whole educational system would be in trouble and called on the media to help WAEC in its fight against

the menace.

"Government has invested so much in education so it is imperative on all of us to guard the resources that have been spent to ensure they do not go waste through examination irregularities and malpractice," he added.

He also expressed worry about the attitude of some parents who go to the extent of trying to buy examination questions from examiners for their children, prior to the date of the test, saying "this practice must stop so that we can have competent leaders in the near future to promote the development of the country."

He also revealed that plans were underway to reduce the processing time for the release of the examination results from 90 days to 67 days.



• Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Education