

Free SHS enrolment for 2018:

Govt opts for double intake system

... new entrants to run semester system

BY TIMES REPORTER

PRESIDENT Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has affirmed that the implementation of a double intake system for new entrants into the country's public senior high schools (SHS) will take off from September this year.

The system according to the President is to address the infrastructural deficit facing most schools following the high intake of students benefiting from the Free SHS policy.

A statement released by the Director of Communications at the Presidency, Eugene Arhin yesterday said, despite government's efforts at providing the needed infrastructure to cushion the various schools, the challenge persisted.

"Unfortunately, we have not been able to increase the infrastructure as rapidly as the number of entrants. But if you are prepared to find a way, you will find that way, and we have found a way to be able to absorb this intake. We call it the Dual Intake System that is going to allow us, on a semester basis, to address the challenge of this new population," the statement said.

President Akufo-Addo observed that a 31 per cent (472,000) increase in the population of new students for the 2018/2019 academic year which may result in a deficit of 183,000 said, the double intake system would create room to accommodate the increase in enrolment.

"We are doing it by, first of all, expanding the number of teachers. We are recruiting

over 8,000 more teachers for the secondary schools this year than we had last year and then we are going to employ a double track school calendar system."

"It will reduce class sizes, it will increase the contact hours as well as increase the number of holidays, and all this is going to be achieved with the existing infrastructure. So we are moving to this intervention to be able to accommodate this larger population of secondary high school students," he stated.

Far from it being an intervention that is new, the President noted that "it should be remembered that it has been tried elsewhere and found successful, especially because it has led to a reduction in class sizes and an increase in the contact hours that the teachers have with their students".

The result of the initiative, he was confident, was going to lead to a greater output as far as quality in the country's SHS system was concerned.

He therefore, urged teachers, administrators, parent teacher associations (PTA) and regional and district directors of education across the country to embrace the system and work to ensure that it succeeds.

"Our young people and the future of our country will be the beneficiaries of this increase. The Free Senior High School system has come to stay. It is going to be a permanent feature of the educational architecture of our country, and it is going to make it possible within a generation that will transform the fortunes of our country," he added.



• Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh,
Minister of Education