



NAB to begin rating tertiary institutions to ensure excellence

By **Emelia Ennin Abbey**

THE National Accreditation Board (NAB) has announced plans to commence the rating of tertiary institutions in Ghana as part of measures to maintain standards.

The move, which is part of the board's short-to-medium-term plans, will also include the standardisation of programmes or courses offered by the various accredited tertiary institutions in the country.

This was made known by the Executive Secretary of NAB, Dr Kingsley Nyarko, at a workshop in Accra for stakeholders in tertiary education.

It was on the theme: "Strengthening quality assurance for institutional effectiveness".

Measures

The measures, Dr Nyarko said, would include the introduction of a national qualification framework and

a learners' record database which would require the screening of the original certificates of all lecturers and tutors in tertiary institutions.

There were also plans to fully automate the operations of NAB, he said.

"NAB is poised to safeguard the tenets of a robust quality assurance system to ensure that the desired outcome of tertiary education provision is achieved," he stressed.

That, according to him, would be

done "while we continue to engage stakeholders on the myriad of issues affecting the smooth running of tertiary institutions in Ghana".

Functions

The functions of NAB, as specified in the National Accreditation Board Act, 2007, Act 744, include determination of programmes and requirements for the proper operation of an institution and the maintenance of acceptable levels of academic or professional standards, in consultation with institutions.

NAB, Dr Nyarko said, also conducted monitoring and carried out visits to ensure that institutions met standards in terms of organisation and governance, academic and administrative leadership, adherence to codes of ethics and the necessary quality assurance mechanisms.

The rest were the availability of appropriate physical facilities, such as libraries and laboratories, curricula and academic and professional staffing, he added.

"You cannot have educational institutions without the facilities that enhance teaching and learning such as libraries, laboratories, teaching aid and workshops," he said.

Quality

The Board Chairman of NAB, Prof. Kofi Awusaboa-Asare, said NAB was set up to ensure quality in the educational system at the higher level "and we are strengthening and enhancing the quality standards of all institutions accredited by the board".

He said the institutions could enhance their quality when they understood the concept of quality assurance, adding: "It is only through quality assurance that we can build confidence in the public to have trust in what we do."

Stakeholders' role

For his part, a former Executive Secretary of NAB, Dr Kwame Dattey, called on all stakeholders to play their roles well "if the seeming downward trend in quality provision is to be stemmed".

He said school authorities must also put in effective quality assurance measures, such as good curriculum, effective teaching methods, adequacy and quality of student assessment methods, student engagement and student satisfaction.

Others were quantity, efficiency and quality of graduates and their suitability for employment, he added.

Fact Sheet

- **The National Accreditation Board was established in 1993 with the enactment of PNDC Law 317, 1993.**
- **The legislation has since been replaced by the National Accreditation Board Act, 2007, Act 744 which is operationalised by the Tertiary Institutions (Establishment and Accreditation) Regulations 2010, LI 1984.**