

# 'Let's hold national dialogue on education'



• Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Education Minister

By Raissa Sambou

**T**HERE is the need for a national dialogue of stakeholders to fashion out an education policy for the country that will be binding on successive government.

This, Benjamin Panlogo-Logodam, former president of the Private University Students Association of Ghana (PUSAG), said the policy would ensure smooth running of the educational sector.

Speaking in an interview with the *Ghanaian Times* on Friday, he noted that, with the current massive enrolment of students into the second cycle institutions, due to the free Senior High School (SHS) policy, it was prudent that measures were quickly put in place to avert any future overflow of students into the various tertiary institutions.

"It is obvious the number of students who are likely to graduate from SHS in the next

three years and beyond will be unprecedented therefore government must enhance and expand the facilities of our various public universities and all public tertiary institutions to be able to accommodate the incoming enrolment boom," he stressed.

Mr. Panlogo-Logodam also called on government to collaborate with private tertiary institutions to come up with a flexible policy framework that would enhance the challenges and bottlenecks faced by private tertiary institutions as far as accreditations, charter and taxation were concerned, adding that there was also the need to weed out all unaccredited universities.

Describing the current rate of unemployment as alarming, the youth activist called on authorities to treat the menace as a major national security threat by implementing measures that will make graduates employable right after school.

"Government must create the

enabling environment for the youth to venture into creating their own businesses and sustaining them; and the youth must also be innovative in their thinking by being entrepreneurially-minded, instead of waiting for white collar jobs," he added.

He suggested that government must meet periodically with the Council of Independent Universities for mutual discussions and strategies for best practices.

According to Mr. Panlogo-Logodam, facilities within public second cycle and tertiary institutions ought to be expanded to help accommodate students at all levels, adding that "remunerations and incentive challenges of lecturers, teachers and the teeming staff of our public institutions must be addressed to avoid the numerous strikes and agitations which affects teaching and learning".