

Solicit expert advice on educational polic

• Government told

By Shirley Asiedu-Addo, CAPE COAST

THE Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, Professor George Kwaku Oduro, has asked the government to embrace expert advice on its educational policies if it is to optimise gains on investment in the education sector.

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He said many educational policies had failed to achieve the needed success because they had been overly politicised and insulated from constructive expert and technocrat advice, opinions and criticisms.

Prof. Oduro, who is an educational planning expert, emphasised that if the government was to make the needed societal transformation through educational policies, then such policies would have to be depoliticised and technocrats given a freehand to contribute their ideas and opinions to fine-tune them.

Prof. Oduro was speaking at the fifth Quadrennial National Delegates Conference of the Ghana National Association of Teachers

(GNAT) in Cape Coast last Friday.

It was on the theme "Transforming societies through education: Invest More. Invest Equitably," and was attended by over 700 delegates from across the country.

Prof. Oduro stated that the role of education in the development of the required human capital was so crucial that it would be a mistake for educational policies and investment in the sector to be overly politicised.

Successive governments guilty

Meanwhile, he said, successive governments, starting with the Convention Peoples Party (CPP), had been guilty of it.

Prof. Oduro said hostile reactions to opposing views had also been the practice, including the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) free senior high school (SHS) policy.

"The result is that we are now grappling with equity-related challenges, most of which could have been avoided or reduced in the free SHS

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The government has been advised to accept expert advice, opinions and criticisms on its educational policies, to make for their success.



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He noted that while d sector had become incre: numerous, government l sector remained woeful

Teacher motivation

Prof. Oduro called on rewarding teachers and

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• Prof George Oduro addressing delegates in the conference

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to make implementation of educational policies successful.

"As a country, we cannot achieve our transformation agenda through education without the teacher. So it is mandatory that government rewards teachers and recruit more teachers to operationalise its initiatives," he stressed.

He also stated that the shortfall in the number of teachers, which a report by Prof. Jophus Anamuah-Mensah put at 45,000 in 2015, needed to be resolved urgently.

Imbalances

"There are also imbalances in the distribution of laboratory equipment, libraries and other teaching and learning materials between endowed and less endowed schools," Prof. Oduro pointed out and added, "Without more investment we cannot achieve the quality education we plan for our young ones."

He said inadequate investment in education plunged societies into higher costs in terms of public spending on social and economic crime control, as well as curative health management.

He charged the teachers to work harder to

maximise returns on investments in the education sector, noting that equitable investment in education would be meaningless if the teachers did not act appropriately to complement such investment.

The General Secretary of GNAT, Mr David Ofori Acheampong, in an interaction with the *Daily Graphic* said GNAT was optimistic that government would ensure a good working environment for teachers.

The Omanhen of the Oguaa Traditional Area, Osabarimba Kwesi Atta II, who chaired the session, called on teachers to optimise contact hours and desist from using such hours for personal activities.