

Schools are not re-open

...consultations are on easing restrictions —



• Mr Kojo Oppong Nkrumah

BY ABIGAIL ANNOH

THE government has clarified that it has no plans of re-opening schools anytime soon until it has exhausted all consultations to ensure a safe environment for both students and teachers.

The Information Minister, Kojo Oppong Nkrumah debunking reports that government intends to re-open educational institutions that have remained shut since March, this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, saying that, “what we are doing is consultation on what it takes to re-open schools.”

“If there has been a misspeak anywhere, just to put it in its right context, we are not re-open-

ing schools. Rather, we are holding consultations as part of the potential easing of the general restrictions that we are living under,” he stressed.

The Minister, who made the statement at a press briefing in Accra yesterday used the opportunity to elicit a national conversation on how to get life back to normal amidst dealing with the global pandemic.

According to him, “the world is realising that measures like lockdowns and restrictions cannot continue in perpetuity and we would have to learn to live with the new normal.”

Thus, government needed broader views from the citizenry to make a firm decision moving forward, for the benefit of all, while ensuring that gains made in the fight against COVID-19 were not disrupted.

Mr Oppong Nkrumah who took notice of the

rising public sentiment allow students back to channel these apprehensions answering the question: what should be the in what would be the best non-teachers and students at some point?”

“The government can do many things if we invite the nation to look at the fact we do not know where and we will have to

Touching on the Minister Nkrumah reiterated received the drug yet is claiming so.

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Info Minister

ents on whether or not to
to school advised that “we
ensions and worries to-
: question; what does it take,
indication of the good time,
best way to protect teachers,
udents if we are to open up

t believes that as a nation we
if we put our mind to it and
to engage in this conversa-
act that there is no vaccine,
en exactly one will be validat-
to live with this,” he said.
Madagascar COVID-19 cure,
sted that government had not
t contrary to media reports

“The reports that Ghana has requested for or that we have received and we are testing a cure from Madagascar is incorrect. What we have said is that they have reached out to us as they have done with many other countries and what we will do is to test it.

“We will take it through the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) and Centre for Plant Medicine before making a decision on it,” he said.

Many teacher unions and educational organisations have warned against the re-opening of schools should President Akufo-Addo decide not to extend the 31st May deadline on ban on social gatherings.

According to the groups, conditions are not rife for the safe reopening of schools given that the spread of COVID-19 remains very exponential in the country.