

Education

Develop creative abilities of youth

• Through reformed educational system

By Timothy Gobah, CAPE COAST

A MEMBER of the National Security Council, Brigadier General R.O. Sackey (Retd), has called on the government to reform the educational system in order to develop the creative abilities of the youth.

He said the current curricula of the educational service did not promote creativity and innovation, hence the need to review the educational curriculum to make it innovative and relevant to society.

“Vocational, technical and purely academic education ought to be merged to produce a new generation of students who acquire practical and innovative skills that are relevant to the society”, he said.

Brig Gen Sackey was

speaking at the 142nd Anniversary and Speech and Prize Giving Day of the Mfantsipim School on the theme: “Harnessing Resources through Science and Technology: The Education and Industry Nexus” in Cape Coast last Saturday.

“Our educational system must develop a forward-looking agenda to promote sports, patriotism and creativity”, he stated.

Rote learning

Brig. Gen. Sackey, who is also a member of the Armed Forces Council, underscored the need for a shift in focus from the use of retentive memory to the focus of creativity and applied knowledge or technology.

He said the educational system limited the potential of Ghanaian students due to rote learning tactics adding that the various levels of the educational ladder were all about rote learning, popularly known as “chew pour and forget”.

“When we put our youth on the path of creativity, most of our nation’s problems will be solved locally and we may not need external help, we can rather offer help to others because our youth may evolve or create solutions which may not solve problems in Ghana alone but also in other places of the world”, he added.

Planning

Commenting on planning for the future, Brig. Gen. Sackey, stressed the need to develop a forward-thinking approach that would help develop the country.

He said if the fortunes of the present and future generations were to be made better Ghanaians, they must develop the attitude of thinking and developing a positive agenda for themselves and the nation.

Teachers

In his address, a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Korlebu Teaching Hospital, Dr Patrick

Ekow Bankah, stressed the need for teachers to upgrade their knowledge and delivery of information to their students in order to be relevant in the modern world of science, technology and innovation.

He called on the government to provide scholarship schemes for teachers to attend continuous development programmes and other sponsored courses that would help in developing their skills.

Dr Bankah urged students to stay away from illicit drugs such as marijuana and tramadol as its excess intake caused severe damage to the brain.

“Do not self-destruct your brains through drug abuse because your brain is the most valuable asset in your body and you, as an individual, is a great asset of the nation”, he said.

Harness resources

The Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church, Ghana, Most Rev. Dr Paul K. Bofo, said there was the need to harness available resources, both tangible and intangible through science and technology.

The

Headmaster of Mfantsipim School, Mr Manfred Barton Oduro, called for the completion of the school’s dining hall expansion project and the new dormitory project, started by the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund).

He further urged parents and guardians to spend ample time with their children by visiting them often and keeping track of the kind of friends they have.

Contribution

The 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 year groups, who were the organisers of the anniversary celebration, presented the school with a refurbished Junior Science Laboratory, completed at an estimated cost of GH¢ 700,000.

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