

**PRESS RELEASE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY OF THE
AFRICAN CHILD, 16TH JUNE 2024 UNDER THE THEME: “EDUCATION
FOR ALL CHILDREN IN AFRICA: THE TIME IS NOW”**

The Commission celebrates the 2024 Day of the African Child (DAC) by calling on government of Ghana to increase budgetary allocation to fund reforms necessary to improve access to quality education for all children in Ghana.

This year’s DAC is based on the theme, *Education for all Children in Africa: The Time is Now*. This is based on the assessment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa which revealed that despite various achievements gained, African States face an increasing number of out of school children, lack of quality education and higher teacher to student ratio.

In Ghana, it was reported in the 2021 Population and Housing Census that a staggering 1,215,546 children between the school-going age of 4-17 years are not enrolled in school. Out of this number, nearly one million of these children have never experienced any form of formal education due to lack of access. Moreso, the Commonwealth Global Youth Development Index Report¹ in its 2023 report, ranked Ghana’s education system at a disappointing 125th out of 183 countries.

The Commission commends government and the Ministry of Education for implementing various policies and initiatives to ensure the right to education in Ghana such as the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (fCUBE) policy, Free Senior High School (FSHS) policy and the School Feeding Programme.

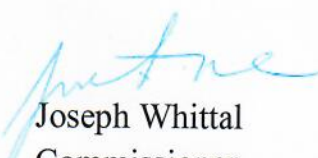
¹ The report assess and rank the education systems of various countries
<https://thecommonwealth.org/publications/global-youth-development-index-update-report-2023>

However, many gaps exist including about 5,400 schools under trees due to lack of infrastructure, inadequate furniture, lack of proper sanitation facilities, curriculum and textbooks, as well as underqualified and poor conditions of service for teachers.

To this effect, the Commission encourages the government and the Ministry of Education to pay equal attention to the right to basic education by removing the various cost implications to parents especially in poor rural areas. Also, the Commission urges the government to improve school infrastructure, conditions of service for teachers, resources including textbooks, comprehensive and continuous professional training for teachers, and innovative and well targeted sensitization programmes to challenge societal norms such as child marriages and Child Labour that hinder children's right to education.

The DAC came into effect in 1991 through the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU). This was in memory of students massacred and injured during the 16th of June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa who were marching in demand for quality education and the need to be taught in their languages.

The Commission remains committed to increasing advocacy and enforcement mechanisms to protect the right to education at all levels for all children in Ghana.



Joseph Whittal
Commissioner