



GHANA NATIONAL UNION OF TECHNICAL STUDENTS

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PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE GHANA NATIONAL UNION OF TECHNICAL STUDENTS (GNUTS) ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AUTHORITY BOARD WITHOUT STUDENT REPRESENTATION.

The Ghana National Union of Technical Students (GNUTS), the nationally recognized representative body for students in Technical Universities, Technical Institutes, and TVET-related institutions across Ghana, expresses its grave concern and firm objection to the inauguration of the Scholarship Authority Board in its current composition, which regrettably excludes student representation.

As a key stakeholder within Ghana's educational ecosystem, particularly in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, GNUTS finds this omission both unacceptable and counterproductive. Students are not peripheral actors in the scholarship framework; they are its primary beneficiaries and central purpose. Any governance structure established to oversee scholarship policy, administration, and disbursement—yet constituted without the voice of students—raises profound concerns regarding legitimacy, equity, transparency, and democratic accountability.

Scholarships exist to promote access, inclusion, skills development, and national human capital formation, especially for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. For technical students, scholarships are not merely financial support; they are critical enablers of skills acquisition, industrial training, certification, and employability. Decisions taken by the Scholarship Authority—covering eligibility criteria, award quotas, disbursement timelines, sector prioritization, monitoring mechanisms, and grievance redress—directly affect the academic progression, welfare, and future productivity of technical students nationwide.

Stakeholder Exclusion and Its Implications

Good public governance thrives on inclusive decision-making, stakeholder participation, responsiveness, and accountability. These principles are not optional ideals; they are essential to effective policy implementation. A Scholarship Authority Board that operates without student representation risks becoming detached from the lived realities of beneficiaries, particularly technical students whose educational pathways, cost structures, and training requirements differ significantly from those of traditional university students.

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As the umbrella body representing hundreds of thousands of technical students across Ghana, GNUTS has consistently contributed to national education policy dialogue, TVET reforms, and student welfare advocacy. Student representation on education-related boards has long been recognized as a democratic convention and best practice, designed to enhance credibility, policy relevance, and institutional trust. The exclusion of students from the Scholarship Authority Board therefore represents a departure from established norms, stakeholder expectations, and the spirit of participatory governance.

Key Concerns of GNUTS as a Critical Stakeholder

GNUTS wishes to place on record the following concerns, which make student representation on the Board imperative:

1. Marginalization of Technical and TVET Students

Technical students have historically faced disparities in scholarship access, funding prioritization, and policy attention. Without student representation, particularly from the TVET sector, these disparities risk deepening.

2. Inequitable Scholarship Allocation and Criteria

Scholarship eligibility frameworks often fail to reflect the unique cost demands of technical education, including tools, equipment, workshops, and industrial attachments.

3. Delays and Irregular Disbursement

Persistent delays in scholarship disbursement disproportionately affect technical students who rely on continuous funding for practical training and certification timelines.

4. Lack of Effective Feedback and Grievance Redress

Students currently have limited institutional channels to raise concerns, appeal decisions, or contribute to policy improvement.

5. Weak Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms

The absence of student voices undermines trust in scholarship administration and weakens public confidence in the Authority's operations.

6. Misalignment with National TVET and Skills Development Agenda

Excluding technical students from scholarship governance contradicts Ghana's stated commitment to skills development, youth employment, and industrial

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transformation.

Our Position and Demands

In view of the foregoing, the Ghana National Union of Technical Students (GNUTS) hereby states:

1. We unequivocally reject the current composition of the Scholarship Authority Board due to the absence of student representation.
2. We demand the immediate inclusion of a student representative, with deliberate consideration for technical and TVET students, on the Board.
3. We call on the Government of Ghana, the Ministry of Education, and the Scholarship Authority to uphold principles of inclusivity, fairness, and participatory governance.
4. We reaffirm our readiness to engage constructively with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that scholarship governance reflects the realities and aspirations of Ghanaian students.

Conclusion

A scholarship system that determines access to education, opportunity, and social mobility cannot be credibly governed about students, without students. Excluding student representation erodes trust, weakens accountability, and undermines the very purpose of the Scholarship Authority. GNUTS remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for policies that protect the welfare, dignity, and future of technical students across Ghana.

Signed,

President

Ghana National Union of Technical Students

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Coordinating Secretary

Ghana National Union of Technical Students

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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