



PRESS RELEASE

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MAY DAY 2026 MESSAGE

Happy Workers' Day 2026 to our gallant Workers of Ghana, especially Teachers of the Elite Union.

NAGRAT Leadership salutes you!

Today we acknowledge every Ghanaian worker—the teachers working in "Under-the-trees' classrooms" and other hazardous conditions of the many communities across the country.

Today, we celebrate under the theme; **“Pivoting to Growth, Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods Beyond the Macroeconomic Stability.”**

Colleague Elite teachers, and builders of the nation's future, on this Workers' Day, NAGRAT appreciates every Ghanaian teacher. There is record that you reported to duty when the materials and tools to work with were lacking, and some cases insufficient. You taught hungry students because perishable grants had not been paid since June 2025, and therefore, no food for them. You endured harsh conditions in crowded classrooms and in some cases, lack of classrooms. You kept WASSCE alive while recurrent grants for your schools had been in arrears since 2021. You are the reason Ghana still has a public education system.

We undoubtedly acknowledge government's work to achieve macroeconomic stability. Inflation has slowed. The cedi has found some footing. Yet, comrades, a teacher cannot eat stability. Stability that does not reach our homes; the lack of affordability on our payslips, cannot be satisfactory.

This year's theme demands that we PIVOT. And NAGRAT says the pivot must start in the classroom.

Issues worth noting as we celebrate May Day:

In respect of the 2022 College of Education Batch of trained teachers, financial clearance for their recruitment was granted late 2024. Most were posted by Feb 2025, but about 2,800 are still awaiting postings due to ‘no vacancy’ in regions of choice.

NAGRAT demands:

A completion of all the 2022 postings before the end of May 2026.

For that of the 2023 Batch of trained teachers, who completed national service in sept 2025, GES only opened portal in Nov. 2025. As of April 2026, financial clearance is still pending for about 22,000 teachers. Government has announced a recruitment of only 7,000 teachers.

NAGRAT demands:

“That government grants financial clearance now. Trained teachers cannot feed families on national service “allawa.”

NAGRAT’s position since 2025/2026 has been that: “it makes no economic sense to train teachers for 4 years and leave them home. That is unemployment we create ourselves.”

GES loses about 10,000 teachers yearly to retirement, study leave, resignation, and others. Yet, recruitment lags. Rural schools still have “no teacher” subjects.

NAGRAT demands the “Replacement of every teacher who leaves. “One-out, one-in policy.”

NAGRAT further demands that the “Fast-track licensing processes be done so that recruitment isn’t blocked by bureaucracy.”

Pivot to Growth means, Fund the Schools you opened:

Growth begins when schools function. Yet CHASS tells us that heads still use personal funds to run schools. Perishable grants were cleared for July—October 2025, but arrears began again after June 15, 2025. Free SHS cannot survive on goodwill.

Growth: means more trained teachers, lower PTR, better learning outcomes, skilled workforce for economic growth. Education is the only sector that grows all other sectors.

We demand:

1. An immediate release of all outstanding perishable and recurrent grants to SHS/SHTS. No more “the money is coming” while students are either sent home or are threatened of being sent home.

2. Sustainable financing for Free SHS: Do away with Double Track Schools. Pay Buffer Stock suppliers. Pay school feeding caterers. Pay WAEC. If the policy must be reviewed to work, review it, and quickly too.
3. End the 3—year backlog of subventions and capitation grants: You cannot demand 21st Century outcomes with 19th Century funding.

Education is the only sector that grows every other sector. Starve it, and you starve national growth.

Pivot Jobs: Recruit the Teachers you trained:

Jobs without postings are a slogan. Currently, over 20,000 trained teachers from the 2023 Colleges of Education batch remain at home, surviving on expired national service allowances.

The 2022 batch still has about 2,800 awaiting postings due to “no vacancy”. Meanwhile, classrooms in rural communities do not have Maths, Science or ICT teachers. This has made unemployment unimaginable.

Direct creation of decent, pensionable public sector jobs for thousands of College of Education graduates reduces graduate employment.

To this end, we demand:

1. An immediate financial clearance for all 2023 trained teachers, not only 7,000.
2. An automatic posting of the trained teachers within 3 months of national service, as policy dictates. “Train a teacher, post a teacher.”
3. That, there be “One-out, one-in replacement policy.” GES/GTVETS lose more than 10,000 teachers yearly to retirement and resignation. Replace them. Every child deserves a trained teacher, not a PTA volunteer.
4. A Fast—track NTC licensing process so as not to allow bureaucratic delays block postings.

Decent jobs mean pensionable, safe, respected jobs.

Stop the delayed promotions and allowances. A job that cannot pay rent is not the dignity that May Day stands for.

Pivot to Sustainable Livelihoods: Pay the Teacher, keep the Teacher in the classroom.

Sustainable livelihoods means:

1. Living wages reviewed to match real inflation.
2. Secure pensions—SSNIT and 2nd Tier must not just be paid on time but must be enhanced.
3. Housing and healthcare that work, not just on paper.
4. Safety—No teacher should be assaulted for enforcing discipline.

5. A teacher must retire without fear, a young graduate must choose the GES over a care-home in the UK or America, then we have sustainable livelihoods.

A posting of a teacher equals to stable income, SSNIT contributions, career path, which ends the cycle of trained teachers doing “galamsey”, riding okay, or leaving for UK and America care jobs.

To our esteemed Members: your sacrifices stabilised Free SHS. Your unity will enforce the pivot. We will engage. We will negotiate. And if forced, we will act. Because no nation pivots by punishing its teachers.

Beyond macroeconomic stability lies the microeconomic reality of the teacher. Beyond GDP lies the child who needs a teacher today. “Macroeconomic stability means little if 30,000 trained teachers are home while classrooms are empty. The real pivot is from ‘financial clearance delays’ to ‘appointment letters on time.’”

This May Day, we do not beg. We demand a pivot with a human face—a teacher’s face.

Solidarity forever. Aluta continua.

Signed

For and on behalf of NAGRAT

Anaba Jacob (Esq)
(President)

Ayuraboya Michael
(General Secretary)

Note to Editors:

For favour of publication, please.

Cc;

All Media Houses

All Regional Secretariats, NAGRAT