



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NCPTA: BAN ON EXTRAVAGANT GRADUATIONS DEFENDS THE PURPOSE OF SCHOOLS - LEARNING, CHARACTER & NATIONAL IDENTITY.

Fellow Parents and Guardians of Ghana,

The National Council of Parent Teacher Associations, NCPTA, fully endorses the Ministry of Education and GES directive banning extravagant, profit-driven graduations in pre-tertiary schools. This is not a fight against celebration. It is a fight to restore the soul and purpose of our schools.

#### **A. The Purpose of Schools in Ghanaian Culture.**

Schools in Ghana were never built just to pass exams. Our elders established them as institutions of learning, character formation, modesty, discipline, and the nurturing of responsible citizens. **As our proverbs teach, education without character is a danger to the community.**

**As our founders and scriptures remind us:**

1. **“The purpose of education is to develop the intellect, and the moral and spiritual character of the child.” – Dr. Kwame Nkrumah**
2. **“Freedom without responsibility is a licence for disaster.” – Dr. K.A. Busia**
3. **“Education without values makes man a cleverer devil.” – C.S. Lewis**
4. **“Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.” – Proverbs 29:17**
5. **5. “A child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth.” – African Proverb**

#### **B. How Extravagance Betrays Our Purpose.**

Extravagant KG and Primary 6 graduations teach vanity, not values. They teach children that success = gowns, applause, and spending, not character, humility, and service. When a child learns entitlement at age 5, we should not be surprised when SHS students’ riot, defy teachers, and disrespect authority at age 17-18 Years. We are reaping what we sow.



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (NCPTAs)  
(GOVERNMENT ASSISTED/ PRIVATE SCHOOLS - BASED P.T.A.)**

Our Ref:..... Your Ref:..... Date:.....

In our African communal ethics, the school is an extension of the “village”. Teachers, parents, chiefs, aunties, and uncles all share responsibility. “**Aboa a ɔte sɛ ne nana, ɔno na ɔyɛ ne nana**” – Character is inherited through training, not rented gowns.

**C. NCPTA’s Call: Return to Institutional & Communal Ethics**

**1. Schools are for character + skills, not clout:** Terminal graduation only at JHS 3, SHS 3, SHTS 3, TVET Level 3. No KG, no Primary 6 parties. Ceremonies within school hours in simple uniforms.

**2. Modesty over Pageantry:** Zero commercialization. No gowns, no vendors, no extra charges beyond approved PTA dues. Replace catwalk with cultural displays, Bible/Quranic readings, Ghanaian proverbs, and TVET skills demonstrations.

**3. Discipline as love with boundaries:** Parents are the first school. Correct at home before teachers correct in class. Fathers must set boundaries, not just pay bills.

**4. Mandatory Review of Graduation Ceremonies:** All pre-tertiary schools must review existing graduation practices with PTAs/Parents, GES, TVET and Community leaders. Submit compliance reports to NCPTA leadership, Community and Religious leaders and MOE/GES/TVET Management by end of each graduation phase to ensure it aligns with national policy and Ghanaian values.

**5. Invest in the future Ghana needs:** Redirect graduation funds to books, apprenticeships, and counselling units. As Nkrumah said, we must develop intellect + moral character. **As Busia warned, freedom without responsibility is disaster.**

**Ghana is bleeding from indiscipline, examination malpractices, school violence, sex violence, drug abuse, and disrespect for parents, teachers and students because we abandoned the communal training of our children. If we do not cut the root of entitlement now, we will graduate citizens who lack discipline, modesty, and love for country.**

**Parents, especially fathers: Choose discipline over decoration. Choose correction over clout. Choose character over gowns. That is how we build Ghana, one responsible citizen at a time.**

**SIGNED**

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