

GHANA FEDERATION OF DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS (GFD)

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 August 2026

GFD STANDS WITH UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES WITH DISABILITIES, DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM COALITION STATEMENT

The Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD), the national umbrella body of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Ghana, has taken note of the press statement issued by the Coalition of Unemployed Graduates with Disabilities concerning the recent Ghana Education Service (GES) recruitment exercise.

Let us be clear: GFD stands firmly with unemployed graduates with disabilities. Their frustration is legitimate. Unemployment among persons with disabilities remains a serious national problem, and qualified graduates who continue to be locked out of opportunities have every right to demand answers.

However, GFD was **not consulted, involved, or represented** in the preparation or release of the Coalition's statement. We therefore **dissociate ourselves** from its contents, demands, and proposed actions. The views expressed in that statement are the Coalition's own and do not represent the position of GFD.

In particular, GFD does not support the call for the removal of public officials, or the proposed occupation of state institutions. We believe these approaches risk undermining the very cause they seek to advance. Lasting results are won through firm, evidence-based advocacy and sustained pressure on duty bearers, not through actions that could be used to discredit legitimate grievances.

GFD has been actively engaging the Ministry of Education and other relevant authorities since concerns about the recruitment exercise first emerged, and we are not done. To press this matter further, **GFD will meet with the Ministry of Education on Tuesday, 4 August 2026**, to demand clarity on the status of the recruitment process and to insist that qualified persons with disabilities are not left behind.

On 2 August 2026, during a workshop between Parliament's Disability Caucus and the disability community, the Hon. Dr. Clement Apaak, Deputy Minister for Education and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Disability Caucus, stated that the Ministry of Education is still undertaking the recruitment process and that qualified persons with disabilities will be considered. GFD notes this statement. **We will not simply take it at face value**, we will hold the Ministry to it, verify outcomes, and press for corrective action if graduates with disabilities are once again overlooked.

GFD also notes President John Dramani Mahama's announcement of a 5% employment quota for persons with disabilities in public sector employment. **An announcement is not implementation.** We will continue to push the Ministry responsible for Jobs, Labour and Employment to finalise

and enforce the quota guidelines, so that this commitment translates into actual jobs for actual graduates, not another policy that sits on a shelf.

The current situation is an opportunity to force real reform in disability-inclusive recruitment. GFD will keep working with the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service, the Public Services Commission, Parliament, and other relevant institutions to demand transparent, accessible, fair, and inclusive recruitment processes, consistent with the Constitution of Ghana, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2006 (Act 715), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and Ghana's other national and international obligations.

To all unemployed graduates with disabilities: your fight is our fight. GFD strongly stands by you, and we will not relent until every qualified graduate with a disability gets the employment opportunities they are entitled to.

At the same time, we call on graduates and disability organisations to **tone down confrontational actions** that could be turned against us, and instead work with GFD so that our collective advocacy is disciplined, evidence-based, and effective. United and strategic action, not fragmented ultimatums, is how we win this.

GFD remains steadfast in its mandate to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities through principled advocacy, policy dialogue, strategic partnerships, and firm engagement with duty bearers.

About GFD

The Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD) is the national umbrella organisation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Ghana. GFD leads national advocacy to advance the rights, inclusion, participation, and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities and works closely with Government, Parliament, development partners, civil society organisations, and the private sector to promote disability-inclusive policies and programmes.

For interviews, media enquiries and further information, please contact:

Mr. Joseph Atsu Homadzi

National President, Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD)

Tel: 024 341 7499

Mr. Daniel Oppong Lartey

Chairperson, Employment Committee

Tel: 024 867 7600

Mr. Bismark Amoh

Secretary, Advocacy Committee

Tel: 024 135 9717

Issued by:

GHANA FEDERATION OF DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS (GFD) Secretariat

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