

Central Region in focus ... Central Region in focus

Many headteachers lack training

By Shirley Asiedu Addo, Cape Coast

A RESEARCH conducted by the Institute for Educational Planning and Research (IEPA) of the University of Cape Coast has revealed that about 78 per cent of basic school headteachers have received little or no training since their appointments.

It observed that managing the schools had, therefore, been done on trial and error basis, which did not help in creating an enabling environment for promoting quality in teaching and learning.

This came up at a press briefing on the research findings on Wednesday at Cape Coast.

"The tasks are challenging yet the headteachers are hardly prepared for the tasks," Dr George Odum, the Director of the IEPA stated.

Dr Odum noted that until the government worked to ensure that more investment was made in head-teacher leadership development, educational goals at the basic level would be almost impossible to achieve.

"May I emphasise that unless stakeholders become very interested in what basic school head-teachers actually do in schools, and the Ghana Education

Service (GES) demonstrates genuine and sustained commitment towards the training of basic school headteachers, achieving quality education for all by 2015 will be impossible," he stressed.

Dr Odum implored the GES to take urgent steps to review the responsibility allowances paid to headteachers to motivate them to give their best in ensuring quality education.

He further urged the GES to collaborate with the IEPA and the Centre for Policy Studies of the University of Education, Winneba, to design a sustained leadership and management capacity development programme for basic school head-teachers.

According to Dr Odum, the research was a United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) funded project, titled "Education Quality Implementation through School Leadership Management (EdQual) started in 2006.

He said the findings came up from the first phase of the research involving 800 respondent head teachers drawn from 12 districts in six regions of the country.

He named the regions as Central, Brong Ahafo, Volta, Northern, Upper East and West.

Dr Odum said although the Capitalisation Grant and the School Feeding Programme the government had introduced had significantly increased gross enrolment rates from 87.5 per cent in 2004/2005 to 92.1 per cent in 2006/2008, quality education must go beyond quantitative expansion to the

number of schools, increase in the number of school buildings and improve by investment (GES).

Dr Odum also noted that the respondent headteachers mostly saw themselves as custodians of school property and implementation of government property and not leaders.

He noted that the dual role performed by the headteachers in leading the school and teaching classes increased their workload and was a drawback in quality teaching and learning, adding that this situation was common in schools located in the rural areas.

He noted that without effective leadership, problems such as teacher absenteeism and ineffective supervision were high, negatively affecting the quality of teaching in the basic schools.

Dr Odum said the third phase of the research, which was ongoing, sought to empower the headteachers to adopt research findings in their schools and sought workable measures to help improve school leadership.

Be circumspect in reportage —Adoba

Story: Shirley Asiedu Addo, Cape Coast

THE Central Regional Director of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Mr Frank Adoba, has stressed the need for media practitioners to be circumspect in their reportage to ensure that their work unites the people.

Mr Adoba was speaking at a forum with the media in the region a part of the commission's public sensitisation programme.

Irresponsible reportage on the part of the media, he said, would be a recipe for chaos in this election year.

He, therefore, called on media practitioners to be guided by the tenets of their profession in their run-up to the election.

Mr Adoba noted that the media had the potential to create tension which could incite the populace and create chaos during the election through irresponsible reportage.

He said, even though

Pentecost Church youth

