



The West African Examinations Council

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PRESS RELEASE

WAEC COMMITTEES MEET IN MONROVIA

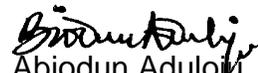
The meetings of the various Committees of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), Liberia were held in Monrovia from Monday, 12th to Friday, 16th November 2018. The Committees of the Council that met during the period included the Liberia Examinations Committee, the Liberia Appointments Committee, the Liberia Administrative and Finance Committee and the Liberia National Committee. The Liberia National Committee is the highest decision-making organ of the Council in Liberia. The Council's Committees in Liberia are made up of Government nominees, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Association of Liberian Universities, National Association of Liberia School Principals, National Teachers' Association of Liberia, and other interest groups. The Statutory Chairman of the Committees is the Deputy Minister for Instruction, who is the country's Chief Government Nominee on Council, Hon. Alexander N. Duopu. The Committees' meetings were chaired on his behalf by the second Government Nominee, Hon. (Mrs.) Madia Herring-Mensah.

The Liberia Examinations Committee received reports on the examinations conducted by WAEC in Liberia in the 2017/2018 reporting period, and noted with satisfaction that the Council's scheduled examinations were successfully conducted. It considered reports on irregularity cases and sanctioned appropriately the candidates who were found guilty of complicity in examination malpractice. It commended WAEC for consistently producing the Chief Examiner's Report on every examination subject as a feedback mechanism to the stakeholders in education. It urged school teachers to utilize the Chief Examiner's Report on their respective subjects as a useful guide in preparing their students for the Council's examinations. While considering the statistics of entries and performance in the various examinations, the Committee appreciated the efforts being made by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with WAEC to improve candidates' performance in WASSCE. It noted with delight that candidates in Liberia have demonstrated the potential to excel in the examination, and urged the government, parents, school authorities and teachers to do everything necessary for the schools to deploy modern equipment, adopt effective methods, create useful programmes and implement professional initiatives in the teaching/learning process to further empower students towards impressive performance. The Committee appealed to school authorities to always ensure prompt submission of their students' entries and other critical documents to WAEC in order to facilitate the provision of adequate examination materials for candidates and to avoid delays in the capturing of information and processing of results.

At its meeting, the Liberia Administrative and Finance Committee considered, among other matters, the Reports of the Internal and External Auditors on the Accounts of the Liberia National Office. The Committee commended the Management for prudent management of resources and strict adherence to the Council's monitoring mechanisms for the prevention of waste and fraud. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Liberia for the cooperation, support, assistance and goodwill which the National Office had continued to enjoy in the country. It noted the information that in line with the existing rotational arrangement the 68th Annual Council Meeting would be hosted by Liberia in March 2020, and advised the Management of the National Office to liaise with the relevant government ministries, departments and agencies to commence early preparations for a successful hosting of the meeting. It urged the Government to endeavour to fulfil fully the country's financial commitments and other obligations to WAEC ahead of the event.

The Liberia National Committee received reports from all the other committees, and commended the Council for the successful conduct of its examinations in the reporting period. The Committee noted with delight the Registrar's glowing tribute to the former Chairperson of Council, Dr. D. Evelyn S. Kandakai, for the successes recorded in her tenure, her unifying influence on members of the WAEC family and the indelible impact of her dynamic leadership on the Council's operations and activities. While considering a report on the proposed introduction of the Liberia Primary School Certificate Examination on a pilot basis in 2019, the Committee stressed the need for adequate consultations among the stakeholders on the modalities and proper fine-tuning of the implementation process to ensure a successful take-off of the programme.

At the end of the week-long series of committee meetings, the Registrar to Council, Dr. Iyi Uwadiae, congratulated His Excellency George Manneh Weah on his election and assumption of office as President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Liberia. During a courtesy visit to the Minister of Education, Prof. D. Ansu Sonii, the Registrar appreciated the Government of Liberia for the prompt remittance of the examination fees of candidates in public schools to WAEC, and urged that the trend be sustained in the years ahead. He lauded the various interventions of the present administration in the education sector, including the free tutorial initiative aimed at complementing the normal school system for improved candidates' performance in public examinations. He drew attention to the accumulated debt owed WAEC by Liberia due to many years of unpaid Contribution to the Council's Headquarters and Subvention to the National Office, and appealed to the Government to take urgent steps to defray the huge debt in order to provide funding support for quality service delivery. Dr. Uwadiae called on the Government, corporate organisations and philanthropic private individuals to institute awards for outstanding performance at WASSCE level as a way of encouraging students to strive for excellence in their academic pursuit. He added that such local awards would complement the efforts of WAEC and prepare candidates in Liberia to clinch the WAEC National Merit and International Excellence Awards given out annually to deserving WASSCE candidates in the Sub-region.


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ISSUED BY:
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