



SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

YOUTH WING

29. 07. 2023

For Immediate Release

LET'S WORK TO EXPUNGE BULLYING IN ALL FORMS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Bullying in Senior High Schools and all levels of education must stop!

The Youth Wing of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) is extremely disturbed by the assault on a student at Adisadel College by a fellow student, as seen on a video that has gone viral on social media since Monday 24 July 2023. This depicts an incident so cruel and inhumane. Such conduct must be strongly criticized as it violates international human rights law.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. Such reports on bullying and assault on students meted out by fellow schoolmates are not new, so we urge the Ghana Education Service (GES) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) to take drastic action to protect students, while they are engaging in one of their most fundamental human rights—the right to education. Our constitutional aspiration is a harmonious society where people enjoy clear socioeconomic rights. Education is the critical strategy for building toward constitutional aspirations, it is important for our schools, GES, and MoE to build programs that address negative cultures in our society such as gratuitous or strategic violence. Clearly, with such incidents still occurring 30 years into the 4th Republic we have not made the progress we should have made.

The use of violence is obviously a breach of Ghana's Constitution, which upholds freedom from torture and the right to life.

“15(2) No person shall, whether or not he is arrested, restricted or retained, be subjected to (a) torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(b) any other condition that detracts or is likely to detract from his dignity and worth as a human being.

28(3) A child shall not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Again, we say that this incident mirrors the type of society we live in. The type of society we live in is sustained by violence as a necessity to preserve the exploitation and oppression of the working class,

www.smghana.org

P.O. Box NT 272, Accra – Newtown Accra



SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

YOUTH WING

the marginalized, and the weak. Our society tolerates violent behavior to the point where politicians have been caught doing it. The culture of violence is a systemic problem and must be deeply uprooted.

We also caution young people to treat one another with respect and dignity no matter where they are. It is important that we look out for one another and give ourselves a safe haven. The degree of despair that this Adisadel College student suffered is quite terrible and it is appalling to see how no one came to his immediate rescue from such incidents. It affirms the culture of violence that is rooted in our society and is a reflection of how this is a systematic problem.

We understand that the Ghana Education Service is currently investigating the incident however we call on the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service to establish a full commission to study its prevalence and impacts and also propose measures to address this longstanding issue.

What is the Ghana Education Service policy beyond punishment? The issue at hand currently is not new and the remedial process for its actors has failed over generations.

Whatever decision will be taken at the end of the investigation against the perpetrators must factor in a deliberate policy to reduce antagonistic violence and class or power relations while ensuring that the actors go through strictly observed therapy and counseling in order to ensure a change in attitude. We say the youth is the future and for that reason, these perpetrators need a process to shape their attitude into right-thinking members of the society.

We also urge members of school staff to be more vigilant and proactive in dealing with such incidents. This occurrence shows how students are left unsupervised and uneducated, hence they should be proactive in eradicating antisocial violent tendencies. A clear process should be introduced to resolve impasses between students rather than give them the space to attempt to resolve issues through such unhealthy means.

Red Salute!

Cde. Oboe Baiden

National Youth Leader

www.smghana.org

P.O. Box NT 272, Accra – Newtown Accra