



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

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PRESS STATEMENT

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (NCPTAs) SUPPORTS MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S
DIRECTIVE ON STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROPER DRESSING.**

The National Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (NCPTAs) wholeheartedly supports the Minister of Education's directive to the Ghana Education Service (GES) to enforce the code of conduct for students at the Pre-tertiary level of Education, particularly regarding improper dressing.

As representatives of parents and guardians across Ghana, we believe this measure is vital for fostering an environment conducive to learning, discipline, and respect for the educational process.

A. CONSTITUTIONAL UNDERPINNINGS AND LAWS BACKING THE MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana underscores the importance of education (Article 25) and the state's duty to provide educational facilities (Article 38). Implicit in these provisions is the expectation that educational environments will uphold standards of promoting dignity, discipline, and focus on academic pursuits. Where Chapter Five of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana talks about Fundamental Human rights, Section 14 clause (1) (e) states as follows : ' 14(1) Every Person shall be entitled to his Personal liberty and no Person Shall be deprived of his Personal liberty except in the following cases and in accordance with procedure permitted by law: 14(1)(e) For the purpose of the education or welfare of a person who has not attained the age of Eighteen(18) years.'

B. PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES AND CONCERNS

1. SCHOOL CLIMATE:

Parents entrust schools with not only academic education but also character development which includes proper dress codes by students such as neatly and well prescribed attire and footwear always, decent haircuts as prescribed by school authorities. Such haircuts should be clean, neat and modest and should avoid extremes in styles and colours.

Furthermore, men's hair should be neatly trimmed and beard clean shaven. Students should not wear chains, bangles, caps, braces. Wearing of spectacles shall be with medical prescription. Also, bleaching of the skin by a student should not be tolerated.

Whereas, Proper dressing contributes to a focused and respectful atmosphere conducive to effective teaching, learning, Character formation and preparing the students for the world of work, Improper dressing on the other hand makes a student indisciplined, affecting decency and order in all spheres of life and making them grow to become recalcitrant and irresponsible citizens and social misfits which does not conform with our Ghanaian and African Identity and brand.

2. DISCIPLINE AND CHARACTER FORMATION: The NCPTA Constitution per Article II Section (1) (a, b and c) speaks about the purposes of the National PTA, in common with those of the Regional Branches and School-based (Unit) PTAs as follows:

(a) 'To promote the general welfare of school going children / wards in their homes, educational institutions, communities and places of worship'.

(b) 'To raise the standards of home life through effective early childhood upbringing'.

(c) 'To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of students and pupils'.

These constitutional imperatives, clearly recognizes the role of both the home and the school in instilling discipline, a cornerstone of personal and societal development, hence adherence to dress codes reflects the purposes of the National PTA Constitution as well as the broader values of self-respect and respect for others.

3. SAFETY AND IDENTITY: Clear guidelines on attire can enhance safety by reducing distractions and promoting a sense of belonging and unity among students.

4. CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND BALANCE: We acknowledge Ghana's cultural diversity and emphasize that dress code enforcement should balance respect for cultural expressions with the need for maintaining appropriate educational standards in line with **Article 14(1)(e) of the Constitution of Ghana and Article II Section (1) of the National PTA Constitution.**

C. RATIONALE FOR ENFORCEMENT

1. Promoting Discipline: Dress codes are part of broader efforts to cultivate discipline essential for academic success and personal growth.

2. Reducing Distractions: Appropriate attire minimizes distractions, fostering an environment focused on learning.

3. Equality and Inclusivity: Sensitively crafted dress codes can promote unity and reduce socioeconomic disparities highlighted by varied clothing choices.

4. Preparation for Societal Norms: Schools play a role in preparing students for professional and societal expectations regarding dress and conduct.

D. NCPTA'S STANCE:

1. Support for Balanced Approach: NCPTA backs a balanced approach respecting students' rights while upholding standards necessary for effective education in line with constitutional and administrative laws.

2. Collaboration with Stakeholders: We advocate for dialogue involving parents, teachers, students, and education authorities to ensure policies are fair, reasonable, and contextually appropriate.

3. Guidance and Counseling: Strengthening guidance and counseling in schools complements enforcement, addressing underlying issues constructively.

E. CALL TO STAKEHOLDERS

1. **GES and Schools:** We urge careful implementation considering cultural contexts, student welfare, and educational objectives. The MOE and its agencies like the GES, TVET amongst other stakeholders should collaborate with the National PTA and its structures to engage parents and guardian to ensure that, the implementation of disciplinary code of conduct for students are done bona fide to avoid possible legal and administrative challenges in future.
2. **Parents and Guardians:** We encourage active parental engagement and sensitization by our PTA structures in supporting schools' efforts balancing discipline with nurturing environments. School Based PTA Executives should team up with school management and establish decent and affordable barbering saloons for the purposes of providing decent hairstyles for our wards especially those in the Boarding schools.
3. **Students:** We call on students to embrace and accept the student's code of conduct, so as to foster mutual respect and create a conducive school climate for effective teaching, learning, character development and also prepare our wards to conform to standard societal norms and expectation for the world of work.

F. CONCLUSION:

NCPTA remains committed to partnering with the Ministry of Education, GES, and all stakeholders promoting quality education aligning academic excellence with character development.



GAPSON KOFI RAPHAEL
GENERAL SECRETARY

