

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROON
T.A.C
SOUTH WEST CONVENTION.

***REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No 97/046 OF
5th MARCH 1997 REORGANISING THE GCE BOARD.***

At an extraordinary Executive Meeting of the South West Convention of the Teachers Association of Cameroon (TAC) holding at Muyuka on Saturday 15/03/97, the teachers observed with great shock and dismay the action taken by government to dissolve the hard earned GCE Board. This action is contained in the secret Presidential decree No. 97/046 of 5th March 1997 which strips the GCE Board of its autonomy by transferring the organisation and management of Anglophone exams once more back to the Minister of National Education - Dr. Robert Mbella Mbappe.

Article 2 of the new decree places the GCE Board directly under the absolute authority of the Minister of National Education; cancels the cooperation between the GCE Board and the University of London, thereby jeopardising the International credibility of certificates obtained by the Cameroonian children.

Article 4 (New) completely dissolves the Examinations Executive Committee (EEC) and replaces it with a Jury to be appointed annually by the Minister of National Education and presided over by a Professor or Assistant Professor appointed by the said Minister.

Article 10 (New) cancels articles 24 of the PM's text of application of the Board which defines the functions of the EEC. By this new article, the Minister determines, by an order, the list of subjects to be entered for the GCE; the Setting, Moderation, duration and coefficient for each subject; conditions for registration and fees; Examination centres; the series; the options and specialities opened to each examination centre. Note should be taken that coefficients is foreign to the GCE system.

Articles 4 and 10 New, imply that examination officials (Moderators, Chief Examiners etc.) shall henceforth be appointed by the Minister of National Education and not the Council on the proposal of the EEC as has been the case since the creation of the GCE Board.

Note should be taken that this diabolic and destructive attempts on the Anglophone hard earned GCE Board had been pointed out by TAC and CAPTAC in their releases of 02/01/97 and 05/01/97 respectively - captioned - "***Press Release on Government Plans to Dissolve the GCE Board***". These were faxed to the Head of State, the PM and Minister of National Education. In the releases, TAC and CAPTAC pointed out to the Anglophone community, government plans to:

- Transfer the administration of the examinations under the GCE Board to the Minister of National Education and deprive the Board of its autonomy.
- Appoint a new Board Chairman and Registrar who will implement the new, satanic and destructive text, call it decree.
- Keep the text secret from public consumption so as to have their newly appointed stooges carry out its recommendations without arousing the wrath of the Anglophone community.

Reacting to these releases, the Minister of National Education, Hon. Dr. Robert Mbella Mbappe, in a Radio and Television briefing, shamelessly, categorically and deliberately deceived the Anglophone community by declaring that these releases were malicious, intoxicating and false; and that the government would not destroy what it had created.

Today, what TAC and CAPTAC had warned against in their press releases are a reality:

1. Decree No 97/046 of 5th March 1997 has been signed, transferring the control, management and organisation of examinations back to the Ministry of National Education.
2. A new Chairman has been appointed.
3. All is now set for the appointment of a New Registrar who, with no sympathy for the English speaking school system, will execute the provisions of the new decree.

Furthermore, we wish to point out here that Article 2 of Decree No. 97/046 of 5th March, 1997 cancels the authority of the Board to organise GCE in Technical Education subjects. The new decree limits it to administering the English version of Francophone Technical Examinations and award the following Francophone Certificates:

Baccalaueat Technique;
Brevet de Technicien;
Brevet d'Etudes Professionnelles;
Brevet Professionnel.

In view of the above mentioned, Teachers Association of Cameroon South West Convention, wishes to reiterate as follows:

- that it remains firmly attached to the autonomy of the GCE Board as stipulated in Presidential Decree No. 93/172 of 1-07-95 and Prime Ministerial Order No. 112/CAB/PM of 12-10-1993 and frowns at any attempts by whosoever to destroy this institution,
- that it perceives the Presidential Decree No. 97/046 of 5th March, 1997 as another deliberate act of marginalisation which threatens the Anglophone factor in this Union - Cameroon.
- that it will defend to the last breath and blood the hard earned GCE Board in order to ensure quality education, acceptable certificates for Anglophone children and the efficient management of all Anglophone examinations.
- that it calls on government to withdraw forthwith this new, obnoxious, machiavellian, incongruous and inciting decree and plans so as to prevent the repeat of the events of October 1993. TAC wishes to reiterate that Anglophone teachers, parents and the students have flexed their muscles sufficiently since January 1997 for this repeat battle, and to welcome the High Priests who will preside over the final annihilation of this Anglophone cherished heritage.

TAC - South West Convention hereby calls on the Anglophone Community to stand up as one man to defend the last vestiges of their Anglo - Saxon inheritance which is being destroyed.

G O D S A V E T H E E N G L I S H - S P E A K I N G S C H O O L S Y S T E M I N C A M E R O O N

DONE AT MUYUKA - THIS 15TH DAY OF MARCH, 1997.



NINJOH PAUL M.
SOUTH WEST CONVENTION SECRETARY GENERAL