



**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (WAEC)**

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE 2012

I wish the Registrar and all officers of Council a happy 2012 in good health and with success in all our plans. We thank God for His blessings and guidance throughout 2011 and as we usher in the New Year, we continue to claim His promise to guide and direct our paths always.

The year 2011 has been a very challenging one for the Council in many ways. While the number of cases of discipline for example, may not have matched that of 2010, they have had their fair share of sensitivity and political undertones, which by God's Grace we were able to surmount and still maintain our cohesion and focus as a family.

Let me therefore, sincerely acknowledge especially the support of Madam Registrar and the Vice Chairman of Council, Ms. Benedicta Biney, who is also the Chief Government Nominee of the Republic of Ghana on Council, and the other Chief Government Nominees from Nigeria, Mrs. Mabel Ozumba; Sierra Leone, Mr. Mohamed Salieu-Kamara; Liberia, Hon. (Dr.) Mator M. F. Kpangbai and The Gambia, Mrs. Fatou Njie.

I wish also to thank members of Council appointed by Governments, those elected by their national committees, those representing universities and those representing senior secondary schools, for their dedication to the mission and vision of WAEC in the performance of their various roles in the Council, who while conscious of their national agendas were equally passionate about the unity of Council in all decisions arrived at during our deliberations. I pray that consensus rather than recourse to voting on issues will always prevail.

I wish also to register my thanks to all the Corporate Officers of WAEC heading their various National Offices under the leadership of the Registrar: Mrs. P. G. A. Ayesu (Accra), Mr. S. M. Sapateh (Freetown), Prof. Thomas Gaie (Monrovia), Dr. Iyi Uwadiae (Lagos) and Mr. Pateh Bah (Banjul).

The demands for high standards and quality of documentation are extremely high at meetings of WAEC and these translate to tremendous pressure on the officers to ensure parity of production of the papers tabled for discussions. The requirement for the summary of decisions of meetings to be circulated at the end of such meetings is exemplary and makes for corporate best practice towards the efficient response to the resolution and requirements in good time before subsequent meetings.

I must congratulate you all for adherence to these principles which are some of the hallmarks of an efficient organisation.

Mainstreaming ICT Education

Although we did not succeed in realizing this goal fully, we have however set the pace towards its implementation. I am confident that in the not too distant future this will be an important feature in our examinations portfolio.

Performance Profiles

Although 2011 witnessed some remarkable performances in Mathematics and English in some of the Member Countries, these subjects still present difficulties for our pupils. The Endowment Lecture by Prof. D. A. Akyeampong entitled ***Towards Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of the Language of Science*** was educative and also provided options in pedagogy to arrest the decline in performance in Mathematics. It can be seen as a reference point to tackle this problem.

Liberia's Participation in WASSCE

We are now a year away from the realisation of Liberia's participation in the WASSCE. We remain confident that the target will be met and we will like to encourage the Liberian family to continue with the strides they have maintained towards that goal.

Expanding the Membership of WAEC to Francophone West African States

This is a case of déjà vue as it re-echoes the regret that my predecessor experienced in not achieving this goal. I hope that my successor will find greater success in this direction, especially considering that our Charter makes provision for such an association. It does appear though that there may not be a structure, similar to a sub-regional examining body like ours, in the francophone West African countries, which rather compounds the situation somewhat.

Changing of the Guard

The statutory tenure of the current Chairman ends in March 2012 at the 60th Annual General Council Meeting which is scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria. How time has flown. By some coincidence the tenure of the current Registrar also draws to a close later this year as will the Vice Chairmanship position which by tradition goes to the member state hosting the Annual Council Meeting.

These will be interesting times for the organisation as two of the key positions will be changed during the first quarter of 2012 ushering a new administration to lead the affairs of Council. Our prayers will always be with the new officers as they make their common but differentiated contributions to the fortunes of the Council and provide leadership in meeting the expectations of our clients and the Governments of the five member states of WAEC.

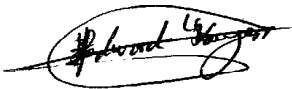
This therefore constitutes both a New Year's Message and to a certain extent my preliminary valedictory message.

Conclusions

In concluding, I wish to sincerely thank you all for the support I received throughout my tenure. There have been many challenges some of which have sharpened our ability to resolve disagreements in a mature and familial manner to the credit of the institution. I have often drawn strength from the experienced contributions of members of Council and the various committees I have chaired and such experience will long remain an asset in my future engagements. I hope that the cohesion which has characterised WAEC for the past 60 years will continue to manifest itself in all our future deliberations.

Floreat WAEC! Floreat the Members States of this noble institution!

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonas A S Redwood-Sawyerr', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Prof. Jonas A S Redwood-Sawyerr
Chairman, WAEC