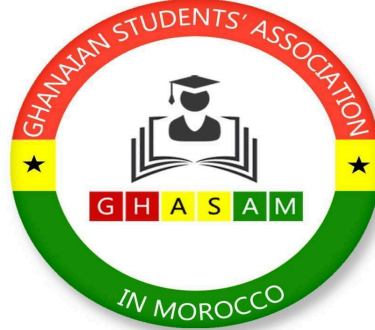


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PRESS RELEASE

THE MEDIA

14/05/2024

HAVOC FACED BY GHANAIAN STUDENTS IN MOROCCO DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF TEN (10) MONTHS STIPENDS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA.

Ghanaian students in Morocco are presently in the midst of a dire situation that calls for an urgent awareness from the Government of Ghana and the general public. In spite of the fact that students are supposed to receive monthly stipends for basic needs such as food, accommodation, transport, study materials, administrative needs, students are left in a lurch.

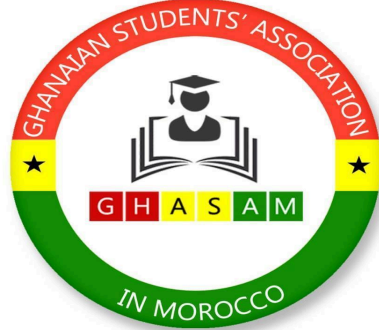
The prolonged delay in stipend payments, which has lasted for ten (10) months, has caused significant havoc among Ghanaian students in Morocco, leading to financial struggles, emotional distress, security threats and academic challenges of undergraduates, masters, PhDs and post-doctoral students.

On behalf of the entire students' body, I would want to outline the dangers being faced by students due to this destitution ;

- Firstly ,students are faced with security threats as most students stand the risk of getting arrested. This is due to the failure of registration and/or renewal of resident cards »cartes de séjours« which demands financial support.
- Students have been evicted from their apartments and many more threatened to be evicted since they have not been able to cater for their rent and their essential bills.
- Just recently, some students were reportedly ill and are not able to receive healthcare due to this dire situation. One student suffering from a peptic ulcer recently went unconscious and was rushed to the hospital. However, he is not able to cater for his medications and finds a challenge with dieting. There are other students who stand the same fate due to similar underlying health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and many more.
- Final projects and/or research projects of final year students are in a stagnant state due to the lack of funds to fuel these projects. Some individuals have developed the urge of committing suicides and some are at risk of developing mental problems due to the mental stress faced in this havoc. We call on the government to work quickly before we lose a beloved Ghanaian as it happened (3-4) years ago in Cuba.

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I would also want to outline the dangers that awaits students if this problem is not solved;

- Students stand the risk of repeating and retaking academic years. The academic year is ending in two months and books allowances haven't been paid. Most students are not able to attend class sessions because they can't afford transportation.
- Unfortunately, students that are ill and others with chronic medical conditions are not able to receive healthcare. If this persists, there can be the possibility of losing a person (someone dying) because of these health conditions.
- Final year students are stacked from exiting Morocco because they have used their necessary documents as collaterals after borrowing huge amounts of money and being unable to pay.

Thereupon, we are optimistic that this medium will help us call on the Government of Ghana, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ghana scholarships' secretariat to hasten the proceedings for the timely disbursement of the stipends. This is because the well-being and academic success of students are at stake, and immediate action is needed to alleviate the suffering and ensure continued education.

Ghanaian students in Morocco are counting on your support and assistance during this challenging time.

NB: The government of Morocco on the other hand has met its responsibilities correlating to the bilateral cooperation with the government of Ghana. However, it is very sad that our own country, government, seems to have neglected us for ten (10) months now. We are suffering, we need help. We are dying, we need help.

Thank you.

The President.