

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

REGISTRAR'S NEW YEAR (2022) MESSAGE TO ALL STAFF

Dear colleagues,

I send to you warm greetings, felicitations and goodwill, as I most heartily usher you all into the New Year 2022 and welcome you back to the office. I thank God on behalf of all staff for the abundance of His grace which He granted unto us and members of our families by way of good health, physical and inner strength and divine guidance. I congratulate us all on the successful execution of the Council's mandate in the year 2021.

I profoundly appreciate our individual and collective efforts, commitment and perseverance which made it possible for the Council to successfully conduct its scheduled examinations, promptly release the results and carry out other crucial activities in all the member countries in 2021. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and inadequate funding, the Council made appreciable progress in the march towards attaining the highest standards in the application of ICT to its operations and service delivery systems. The 68th and 69th Meetings of Council as well as the meetings of various committees of Council and staff at both national and international levels were organised and successfully held virtually using the Council's teleconferencing facility or other secure online platforms. I am most grateful to you all because at your duty posts you cooperated with Management to prudently manage the meagre resources available in your various offices to ensure that the Council's activities were successfully carried out without adverse consequences on service delivery and staff welfare. I cannot thank you enough.

Colleagues all, we should not delude ourselves into believing that the current year will be significantly different from the previous two in terms of the challenges that the Council will have to contend with. In the twilight of 2021, the arrival of a new fast-spreading variant of COVID-19 greeted the already weary world while most of the vulnerable populations of our member countries were yet to have access to vaccination. As I speak, the situation persists, and it portends danger for those who will have to engage in physical interactions to diligently carry out various assignments of the Council which will soon commence across the sub-region. The Council's revenue base is currently very weak, as the Member Governments are contending with waning resources, festering debt profiles and soaring wage bills in their respective countries which forced most of them to cut spending by holding back

their commitments to the Council. I therefore, call on us all to brace for the worst while we pray and hope for the best. But I am more than confident that we shall deliver creditably on our mandate this year as we had done under similar circumstances in the past.

Management is irrevocably committed to capacity building and motivation of the workforce. It will continue to give priority attention to staff welfare and the provision of working tools in all the offices. I urge you all to renew your commitment to our core values of Excellence, Integrity, Professionalism, Accountability, Transparency, Teamwork and Innovativeness in the service of the Council. We must redouble our efforts in the ongoing fight against the perpetrators of examination fraud to safeguard the credibility of our examinations and the worth of our certificates. A new Strategic Plan for the Council will be drawn up this year to replace the old one that was implemented from 2012 to 2016. Efforts will be made to ensure a broad-based and collectively owned strategic document which will incorporate ideas and inputs from all strata, segments or cadres of the Council's internal public.

On March 16 this year, we shall roll out the drums in all our offices and member countries to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our cherished heritage and flagship organisation, WAEC, which was established in 1952. Amidst the celebration, the 70th Annual Council Meeting will be hosted by Nigeria from March 14 to 18, 2022.

Finally, I admonish you all to do everything necessary to protect yourselves and members of your families against the ravaging pandemic. I encourage you to take advantage of the ongoing free vaccination exercise in your respective countries of residence, as my family has done in Ghana.

I commend you all and your families to the unfailing hands of the Almighty God. I pray God to grant the Council the grace to achieve greater successes in its activities this year and in the years ahead.

I wish you a happy and prosperous 2022.



PATEH BAH
THE REGISTRAR