



## **EDUWATCH STATEMENT ON THE DROWNING OF TEN (10) STUDENTS IN THE SABOBA DISTRICT**

Eduwatch is saddened by media reports of the drowning of ten (10) Junior High School students of St Charles Lwanga R/C Junior High School in the Saboba District of the Northern Region.

It is unconscionable that just one school day before the commencement of this year's Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), a headteacher would mobilize 30 students, including BECE Candidates from his school to work on his farm in a rural community where students already have limited time in class due to among others, the challenges in walking long distances to and from school.

We condemn the use of students for any form of economic or domestic activity by teachers, especially where it affects their health or interferes with instructional and learning hours in and out of school.

We commend the swift action of the GES and the Ghana Police Service to enforce existing rules and the law.

We recognize that the GES' Code of Conduct frowns on the use of students/pupils for work, including selling, weeding, farming, carrying of water, sand, stones and blocks, or doing household chores etc., by its staff, with or without the consent of their parents.

We call for the setting up and publishing of complaint phone lines at all GES Offices to enable parents report offending staff for punitive action.

We urge the GES to provide the necessary psychological and other support to the affected parents and families.

Our sincere condolences to the grieving families for their immeasurable losses suffered.

Accra, 14/11/2021

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