THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

REGISTRAR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2011 TO MARCH 31, 2012

1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice-Chairman, Leaders of Delegation, distinguished Members of Council, Heads of National Office, Colleagues all, I am particularly delighted to welcome you all to Abuja, Africa's Model City, Seat of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and host-city of the 60th Annual Council Meeting. In March 2007, we were in this unity city of Abuja for the 55th Annual Council Meeting. Five good years on, and, in accordance with Council's rotational order, we are here again. Let me say for the records that this is the third Council Meeting to be held in Abuja since the creation of this unity city, and they have all been occasions for landmark celebrations. Out of sheer coincidence and consequent on the Council's rotational order, Nigeria has had the privilege of being the host country of the Annual Council Meetings that coincided with the celebration of the Council's 40th, 45th, 50th, and 55th anniversaries. Here we are again in Nigeria for the 60th Annual Council Meeting which has coincided with the celebration of the Council's *Diamond Jubilee*. Mr. Chairman and Members, some privileged information reaching me has it that arrangements have been put in place to make every event associated with this meeting a unique experience and to ensure that, at the end of the meeting, all delegates depart this beautiful city of Abuja with such pleasant memories that will linger on for a long time to come. It is on this note therefore, that the Secretariat joins me in welcoming you all to Abuja, Nigeria and we say in the three major languages of Nigeria, SANNU DE SUA, NNOO, E KAABO. We wish you a memorable, week-long stay and we hope you will create the time to savour the typically unparalleled Nigerian hospitality and explore the great variety of attractions offered by the Federal Capital Territory.

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chairman, distinguished Members, it is part of Council's tradition to receive at its Annual Meeting, the Registrar's Annual Report which covers the twelve-month period from April of one year to March of the succeeding year. It is, therefore, my honour and privilege to present to you my report on the conduct of the business of the Council for the period April 2011 to March 2012.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to say with every sense of humility and a heart full of gratitude to God that in our pursuit of the Council's Mission of *developing and maintaining internationally accepted procedures in examinations, providing qualitative and reliable educational assessment, encouraging academic and moral excellence among the youth* and promoting sustainable human resource development, mutual understanding and international co-operation, the year 2011/2012 has been a resounding success.

The Council's scheduled examinations – national and international, May/June and November/December – were all conducted successfully and leakage-free in all member countries with no exception. The incidence of other forms of examination malpractice has, however, remained a major challenge to the Council. We have used and we will continue to use sensitization and advocacy, among other strategies, to keep stakeholders constantly alert to the destructive effects of examination fraud.

Our strive for the highest standards in the application of ICT to the various processes in the conduct of the Council's core business resulted in our reducing the period for the processing of WASSCE results from an average of **131 days** in the past to an average of **84 days** for the May/June 2011 diet and from an average of **137 days** in the past to an average of **72 days** for the November/December 2011 diet.

The backlog of unprinted certificates was cleared in all countries, **except** Sierra Leone.

Staff strength was increased in most offices even as capacity building for staff and service providers received a boost. Our commitment to raising the level of access to and competence in the use of ICT by staff and service providers started yielding the desired fruits and has enhanced our gradual but resolute march towards the paperless conduct of the Council's business.

Through the platform of the Endowment Fund, the Council continued to recognise, celebrate and reward outstanding performance in its examinations, thereby encouraging academic excellence among the youth.

The Council's monthly seminars, research reports and other vital publications including data on candidate entries and performance continued to serve as veritable avenues for the dissemination of invaluable information for policy decision-making for the development of sound education in the West African sub-region.

Finishing touches were put to the packaging of the first-ever 5-Year Strategic Plan of the Council which, if approved at this meeting, should set the direction in which we hope to take the Council in the next five years and which, if implemented, should put the Council light years ahead of its competitors.

The Council continued to make conscious efforts at reaching out to all its stakeholders in all member countries especially through the use of its websites as well as the print and electronic media. There was evidence that more people were visiting the various websites (of the Headquarters and National Offices) of the Council for purposes other than the checking of results. This has, as such, been one other way of the Council *giving the people of West Africa a vision of the great potentials which lie beyond examinations*. In all the member countries, the print and electronic media also continued to be used to make WAEC better known, better understood and better appreciated by its stakeholders. Sadly, in Nigeria, the image of the Council suffered a big dent as a result of the release of conflicting results of the May/June 2011 WASSCE through a highly regrettable human error. The issue was, however, promptly addressed and strategies were put in place to prevent a recurrence of the embarrassing incident.

We continued to use every available opportunity to remind Member Governments of the need to fulfil their financial obligations to the Council. Consequently, there was some improvement in the funding level in the year under review relative to the past year or two, even though the Headquarters and some of the National Offices did not receive their full budgetary allocations from Governments.

On the socio-political front, happenings in the member countries continued to be of great interest to the Secretariat. The year 2011 was election year in Nigeria, Liberia and The Gambia. And in this regard, the Secretariat wishes to congratulate the Governments and people of the three countries on the peaceful and successful conduct of their general elections.

General elections are due to be held in Sierra Leone and Ghana in November and December 2012 respectively. We pray that the elections will be peaceful and that the best candidates will emerge for all the elective posts.

2.0. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members, there are changes every year in the membership of Council due to several reasons, the most prominent of which are retirement or reassignment of ex-officio members and end of tenure of elected members.

In all, eleven (11) persons have, within the reporting year, ceased to be members of Council. The details are as follows:

(1) <u>The Gambia</u>

Elected by the National Committee

Mr. Ousainous S. Drammeh

(2) <u>Ghana</u>

Mrs. Estelle Appiah

Elected by the National Committee

Mr. S. Doe Amegavie

(3) Liberia

Appointed by the Government

Mr. William T. Twehway

(4) <u>Nigeria</u>

Appointed by the Government

Alhaji G. Y. Bello

Representing Universities

Alhaji Dalhatu Mamman Mrs. Omotayo O. Ikotun Mr. Charles O. Omeire, mni Mr. Zhizhi J. Audu

(5) <u>Sierra Leone</u>

Appointed by the Government

Prof. T. B. R. Yormah

Representing Universities

Mrs. Blanche O. O. Macauley

Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat appreciates most profoundly, the Council Members whose tenure ended in the course of the year, for their contribution to the success of the Council's operations and the development of education in the West African Sub-region during their tenure. We believe that they will remain worthy ambassadors of the Council

wherever they go. We wish them God's guidance and blessings in their future endeavours.

Expectedly, the seats vacated by the members whose tenure just ended have been taken over by new representatives of the various interests on Council.

The Secretariat welcomes the new Council Members to the WAEC family. Our expectations of them are high and we have no cause to doubt that we can count on their willingness and readiness to avail the Council of their expertise and endowments in the execution of its mandate. We pledge our support and cooperation at all times as we wish them a successful tenure on Council.

3.0 **EXAMINATIONS**

3.1 General Information

Mr. Chairman and Members, all the scheduled examinations of the Council national and international, May/June and November/December - were conducted hitch-free and leakage-free during the period under review. The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone presented candidates for the May/June and November/December 2011 editions of the Council's international examination, the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) while The Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone also presented candidates for various national examinations. The Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) was conducted for candidates in The Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone. In addition, the General Business Certificate Examination (GBCE) and the Advanced Business Certificate Examination (ABCE) were conducted for candidates in Ghana, the National Primary School Examination (NPSE) was conducted for candidates in Sierra Leone while the National Assessment Test (NAT) was conducted for candidates in The Gambia. Liberia presented candidates for the Junior and Senior High School Certificate examinations but none for the erstwhile 6th Grade examination which was conducted for the last time in May 2010 as decided by the Government.

3.2. Significant Country-specific Developments

3.2.1. The Gambia

The Computer Services Department developed a new programme that automated the transfer of candidates' WASSCE and GABECE scores that were captured electronically by examiners at the marking venues onto the Server.

3.2.2. Ghana

The first batch of candidates from the country's four-year senior high school programme sat the May/June 2011 WASSCE. For the first time, schools uploaded their May/June WASSCE entry data online, real time as distinct from the off-line registration done hitherto.

3.2.3. Liberia

The country moved further ahead in its match towards joining the rest of the Member Countries in the WASSCE system as it undertook the printing of the National curricular and distributed copies to schools.

For the first time, school candidates' entry data for both Junior and Senior High School Certificate Examinations including photographs and continuous assessment scores were captured electronically and uploaded through batch registration. Candidates' scores for both the Junior and Senior High School Certificate Examinations were also captured electronically at the marking venues.

3.2.4. Nigeria

The on-line registration of candidates for WASSCE continued with improvements. Appropriate profiles were created for authorized users to access the e-registration portal for the printing of reports and statistics as well as the monitoring of entries and correction of errors.

3.2.5. Sierra Leone

The office established new examination centres to cater for the increase in candidature for WASSCE. The security of candidates' worked scripts was further enhanced with the introduction of plastic, tamper-proof script envelopes. The Government formally informed the Council of its decision to change from the 6-3-3-4 to the 6-3-4-4 system of education with effect from the 2010/2011 academic year. By implication, Sierra Leone will have no candidate for the May/June 2013 WASSCE as its first set of students to complete the four-year senior secondary education will write the WASSCE in May/June 2014.

3.3. Highlights of the International Examination

3.3.1. Patronage

The year 2011witnessed a significant increase in the total candidature for the Council's international examination, the WASSCE. This was a departure from the trend of decrease in total candidature recorded in the last three years. A **total of 2,300,189** candidates, made up of **1,741,451 school candidates** and **558,738 private candidates**, sat the examination in all the Member Countries during the reporting year. The 2011 figure which included **1,265,087 males** and **1,035,102 females** showed an increase of 433,449 candidates (or 23.21%) over the 2010 figure of 1,866,740 and an increase of 238,676 candidates (or 11.57%) over the 2009 figure of 2,061,513.

An analysis of the 2011 WASSCE candidature shows that a total of 12,475 candidates (or 0.54%), made up of 7,878 school candidates and 4,597 private candidates sat the examination in The Gambia; 287,965 candidates (or 12.51%) made up of 149,175 school candidates and 138,790 private candidates in Ghana; 1,943,936 candidates (or 84.51%) comprising 1,539,075 school candidates and 404,861 private candidates in Nigeria; and 55,813 candidates (or 2.42%), comprising 45,323 school candidates and 10,490 private candidates in Sierra Leone. **Table 1** shows the summary of WASSCE entry figures for a period of three years (2009 - 2011).

Country	2009	2010	2011	% Increase in 2011 over 2010
The Gambia	10,326	10,677	12,475	16.83%
Ghana	300,847	134,612	287,965	113.92%
Nigeria	1,715,334	1,676,116	1,943,936	15.97%
Sierra Leone	35,006	45,335	55,813	23.11%
Total	2,061,513	1,866,740	2,300,189	23.21%

TABLE 1: 3-YEAR SUMMARY OF ENTRIES FOR WASSCE (2009 – 2011)

As shown in the *Table*, Ghana recorded a 113.92% increase in candidature in the 2011 WASSCE over the 2010 figure, mainly because it did not present candidates for the May/June diet of the examination in 2010. In general however, the increase in candidature for the WASSCE can be said to be a reflection of increasing access to education at the senior secondary school level and a measure of the confidence of stakeholders in WAEC examinations across the Member Countries.

3.3.2. Release of results

Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to report that the results of both the May/June and November/December 2011 WASSCE were released much earlier than ever before in all the Member Countries. This was evidence that our efforts at deploying ICT to the various processes in the conduct of the Council's core business, especially in the areas of registration of candidates, capturing of candidates' scores at the marking venues and processing of examination results, were beginning to yield the desired dividends. As depicted by *Table 2* and *Table 3*, we have succeeded in progressively reducing the period for the processing of WASSCE results from an average of **131 days in 2008** to an average of **84 days in 2011** for the May/June diet and from an average of **137 days in 2008** to an average of **72 days in 2011** for the November/December diet.

YEAR OF EXAM					DATE OF RELEASE OF RESULTS					
	•			LAGOS	ACCRA	BANJUL	FREETOWN			
2008	M	ay 28	Se	otember 26	October 20	September 29	September 22			
			(121 days)		(145 days)	(124 days)	(134 days)			
2009		May 28	Se	otember 18	October 6	September 18	September 18			
			(1	l13 days)	(131 days)	(113 days)	(113 days)			
2010		May 25	August 19		Ghana did Not	August 23	September 3			
			(86 days)	Participate	(90 days)	(101 days)			

TABLE 2: DATES OF RELEASE OF MJ WASSCE RESULTS (2008 – 2011)

2011	May 23	August 10	August 12	August 10	August 29
		(79 days)	(81 days)	(79 days)	(98 days)

TABLE 3: DATES OF RELEASE OF NOV./DEC. WASSCE RESULTS (2008 – 2011)

			DATE OF RELEASE OF RESULTS					
YEAR	DATE OF							
OF		LAGOS	ACCRA	BANJUL	FREETOWN			
EXAM	PAPER							
2008	October 13	February 27	March 4	February 27	February 24			
		(137 days)	(143 days)	(137 days)	(134 days)			
2000	October 12	January 14	January 15	January 14	January 14			
2009		(94 day s)	(95 day s)	(94 days)	(94 days)			
2010	October 8	December 23	December 23	December 22	December 29			
		(75 days)	(75 days)	(74 days)	(81 days)			
2011	October 10	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 24			
		(72 days)	(71 days)	(70 days)	(75 days)			

I want to assure Council that the prompt release of results is part of the legacy which the present administration is determined to bequeath to its successor in office.

3.4. Highlights of National and Other Examinations

3.4.1 Overall Patronage

Unlike the case of its international examination, the Council's main national examinations recorded a dip in the overall total candidature in 2011 relative to the previous year. The total entry figure was 692,712 candidates, reflecting a decrease of 11,521 candidates (or 1.63%) below the 2010 figure of 704,233 candidates. The main explanation for this decrease is the stoppage of the conduct of the 6th Grade examination in Liberia with effect from 2011.

Analyzed on country basis, the total candidature for the Council's national examinations in 2011 is seen to comprise 76,915 candidates (or 11.10%) from The Gambia, 377,840 (or 54.54%) from Ghana, 58,828 (or 8.49%) from Liberia and 179,129 (or 25.85%) from Sierra Leone. Nigeria remains the only Member Country that does not patronize the Council in the conduct of national examinations.

3.4.2 Specific National Examinations

3.4.2.1 <u>The Gambia Basic Education Certificate Examination</u> (GABECE)

The total entry recorded for this examination increased by 1,839 (or 9.27%) from 19,840 in 2010 to 21,679 in 2011. This entry figure was made up of 11,032 males and 10,647 females. The examination was conducted from Monday, May 9 to Friday, May 20, 2011 and the results were released on Wednesday, September 7, 2011.

3.4.2.2 The Gambia National Assessment Test (NAT)

The test was administered to 55,236 pupils made up of 26,530 males and 28,706 females in Grades 3 and 5. There was a slight decrease of 302 (or 0.54%) in the entry figure relative to the previous year's figure of 55,538. The test was conducted on June 29 and 30, 2011 and the results were released on September 19, 2011.

3.4.2.3 Ghana Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE)

The candidature for this examination increased by 21,927 candidates (or 6.24%) from 350,899 in 2010 to 372,826 candidates, made up of 202,538 males and 170,288 females in 2011. The examination was conducted from April 11 to 18 and the results were released on July 19, 2011.

3.4.2.5 Ghana General/Advanced Business Certificate Examination

These two examinations which were conducted from May 2 to 20, 2011 attracted a combined total candidature of 5,014 made up of 2,320 males and 2,694 females. The 2011 figure exceeded the 2010 figure of 4,621 by 404 candidates (or 8.74%). The GBCE results were released on August 26, 2011 while the ABCE results were released on August 30, 2011.

3.4.2.6 Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examination (May)

This examination was conducted for a total of 23,861 candidates, comprising 13,836 males and 10,025 females. There was an increase of 1,202 (or 5.30%) over the 2010 figure of 22,659. The examination was conducted from May 9 to 13 and the results were released on June 1, 2011.

3.4.2.7 Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examination (December)

The candidate entry for this examination increased by 2,867 candidates (or 48.54%) from 5,906 candidates in 2010 to 8,773 candidates in 2011, comprising 4,899 males and 3,874 females. The period of examination was August 15-19, 2011and the results were released on September 13, 2011.

3.4.2.8 Liberia Junior High School Certificate Examination

The total entry for the examination decreased by 1,314 candidates (or 4.78%) from 27,507 candidates in 2010 to 26,194 candidates in 2011. The 2011 figure was made up of 14,708 males and 11,486 females. The examination was administered to the candidates on May 16 and 17 while the results were released on September 7, 2011.

3.4.2.10 Sierra Leone Basic Education Certificate Examination

This examination attracted a total of 81,896 candidates made up of 47,261 males and 34,635 females in 2011 showing an increase of 8,395 (or 11.42%) over the 2010 figure of 73,501 candidates. The examination was conducted from July 4 to 15 and the results were released on August 29, 2011.

3.4.2.11 Sierra Leone National Primary School Examination

There was a slight decrease of 934 candidates (or 0.96%) from the candidature of 98,167 in 2010 to 97,233 candidates made up of 50,116 males and 47,117 females in 2011. The date of the examination was May 7, 2011 and the results were released on August 15, 2011.

3.5 Aptitude/Selection Tests Conducted for Various Institutions

The Council conducted aptitude/selection tests for public and private institutions in the

various Member Countries. The test batteries were developed in-house by the Aptitude Test Development Department of the Research Division. The tests continued to enjoy an increase in patronage as the entry figure rose from 11,965 in 2009 to 16,990 in 2010 and 19,024 in 2011. The 2011 figure was made up of 296 testees from Ghana, 968 from Liberia, 17,723 from Nigeria and 37 from Sierra Leone.

Table 4 summarises the entry figures for the Council's examinations and tests over a three-year period (2009 - 2011).

	EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS (2009-2011) %Inc/Dec in 201				
Country	2009	2010	2011	relative to 2010	
Nigeria	1,727,849	1,690,646	1,961,659	16.03	
Ghana	702,712	491,774	666,101	35.44	
Sierra Leone	206,875	217,057	234,979	8.25	
The Gambia	84,559	88,874	89,390	0.58	
Liberia	89,762	99,612	59,796	(39.97)	
Total	2,811,757	2,587,963	3,011,925	16.38	

TABLE 4:3-YEAR ENTRY FIGURES FOR THE COUNCIL'S
EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS (2009-2011)

3.6 **Examinations Conducted on Behalf of Other Examining Boards**

In continuation of its efforts at fostering international co-operation, collaboration and understanding, the Council conducted various tests and examinations on behalf of some overseas institutions during the year under review. Below is the candidature per country for such tests and examinations:

Ghana	-	33,647
The Gambia	-	1,045
Nigeria	-	657
Sierra Leone	-	816
Liberia	-	68
Total	-	36,233

Appendix A gives details of the names of the examinations.

4.0. **CERTIFICATES**

Mr. Chairman and Members, when I assumed office in October 2007, the printing of certificates for the Council's examinations was in arrears of varying degrees in all the National Offices except Monrovia. The Lagos Office had printed certificates for WASSCE only up to May/June 2005. The Accra Office had printed certificates for BECE, SSSCE, ABCE and GBCE up to 2003. The Banjul Office had printed certificates for GABECE up to 2003 and WASSCE only up to 2001. The Freetown Office had printed certificates for both BECE and WASSCE up to 2003. The printing of certificates by the Monrovia Office was not in any arrears then.

I have, in the past four years, reported to Council the progress made towards the realisation of my team's resolve to clear the backlog in each office and ensure that certificates for every examination conducted by the Council are issued within one year from the last day of the examination concerned. Today, I am delighted to report that we have achieved that goal in all offices **except** Freetown.

The Freetown Office is lagging behind the other offices in the efforts at clearing the backlog of unprinted certificates. The Office has, since the last quarter of 2010, placed an order for the blank certificates required for the 2009 – 2011 WASSCE and BECE but has not been able to take delivery of the consignment up till now due to financial constraints. We continue to appeal to the Government of Sierra Leone to settle its indebtedness to the Freetown Office so that the office in turn, can pay its creditors. I am confident that the printing of the outstanding certificates can be completed by the Freetown Office in less than six months after taking delivery of the blank certificates.

The Accra, Banjul, Lagos and Monrovia Offices have printed the certificates for all their examinations (Accra – BECE, ABCE, GBCE and WASSCE; Banjul - GABECE and WASSCE; Lagos – WASSCE; Monrovia – LJHSCE and LSHSCE) up to the November/December 2010 series of examinations.

The Accra Office has, in addition, printed certificates for the May/June 2011 WASSCE and Business Certificate Examinations. The Lagos Office has commenced the printing of certificates for the May/June and November/December 2011 WASSCE and hopes to complete the exercise before the end of the first half of 2012.

I believe, without any attempt at being immodest, that the clearing of the backlog of unprinted certificates is one achievement for which this administration will be remembered and the prompt printing and issuance of certificates will be another legacy which it will bequeath to its successor in office.

5.0 **EXAMINERS**

5.1 Marking of Candidates' Worked Scripts

Mr. Chairman and Members, one of the ways in which the Council has maintained standards and sustained public confidence in its assessment procedure is by ensuring that every stage of the process is handled by qualified professionals. During the reporting period, the Council engaged a total of 102,883 qualified and experienced examiners in all the Member Countries to mark the worked scripts of its candidates. The number of examiners engaged in 2011 exceeded that of 2010 by 12,514 (or 13.84%). The increase should be expected as Ghana that did not present candidates for the May/June WASSCE in 2010 did so in 2011. Details of the number of examiners engaged for the marking of candidates' scripts in the various examinations in each country in 2009 – 2011 are as stated below:

(1) <u>The Gambia</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
May/June WASSCE November/December WASSCE GABECE TAT Total	250 48 400 - 698	263 40 417 22 742	270 84 440 - 794
(2) <u>Ghana</u>			
May/June WASSCE November/December WASSCE G/ABCE BECE Total (3) Liberia	7,572 5,835 216 9,201 22,824	- 5,995 199 7,000 13,194	6,435 5,579 194 8,690 20,898
SHSCE (School) SHSCE (Private) JHSCE	326 69 111	328 145 96	362 140 124

Total	505	569	626
(4) <u>Nigeria</u>			
May/June WASSCE Nov/Dec WASSCE Total	58,571 15,442 74,013	58,600 14,807 3,407	60,907 17,048 77,955
(5) Sierra Leone			
May/June WASSCE Nov/Dec WASSCE BECE NPSE Total	650 195 1,363 182 2,390	649 273 1,349 186 2,457	702 265 1,460 183 2,610

5.2. <u>Training of Examiners</u>

As part of its efforts at ensuring the validity and reliability of its assessment at all times, the Council not only engages qualified and competent test item writers, moderators, centre supervisors, invigilators and examiners but also provides them with relevant training in order to equip them with the needed skills for optimal performance of their respective assignments. The Council has a tradition of training its item writers and moderators for the construction of good-quality test items. It is also the Council's tradition to train its examiners to build their capacity for consistent, accurate and reliable marking of candidates' worked scripts. The training of examiners is done at both national and international levels through the mounting of workshops or training courses or through participation at the coordination exercises (international preliminary and national) that precede each marking exercise.

Mr. Chairman, you will recall that in my report to Council in March 2011, I gave details of the training courses/workshops that were mounted for item writers, moderators and examiners in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2010. I pointed out that no formal training course or workshop was mounted for examiners in The Gambia in 2010 and that the briefing sessions and coordination meetings that preceded each marking exercise in the year provided a forum for on-the-job training of examiners.

I must say that the table turned in 2011. Whereas in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia, examiners were exposed only to the routine briefing and participation at the international and national co-ordination meetings that preceded each marking exercise, the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education of The Gambia, sponsored a workshop on Item Writing and Moderation for 19 participants from February 7 to 11, 2011 and another one for 46 participants from August 22 to 26. The workshops were, however, specific to the National Assessment Test (NAT).

6.0. **EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE**

Mr. Chairman and Members, it is with a heart full of joy that I report here that all the Council's examinations were conducted without any leakage of question papers in 2011. We indeed conducted the ninth consecutive leakage-free series of national examinations in all Member Countries without exception and the seventh consecutive leakage-free series of international examinations in all the subscribing countries, except Ghana. The conduct of this number of leakage-free examinations in these past four years is perhaps *the peak of the pack of achievements* recorded by this administration and one that deserves every effort and sacrifice to sustain in the years ahead.

Gladdening and cheering as this is, however, I must hasten to register my deep worry that other forms of examination malpractice have persisted in the Council's examinations in all the Member Countries. Principal among these are *collusion*, *mass cheating*, the *use of cell phones to cheat*, and the *non-appearance syndrome*, which is perhaps peculiar to Nigeria for now. Most disheartening is the revelation that countries where examination malpractice was not known to be a significant feature of public examinations in the past, have started to record a number of cases, some of them perpetrated with astounding sophistication.

Permit me to say here that examination malpractice, in whatever form it takes, is a societal problem that has its roots mainly in the candidates' lack of self-confidence and their fear of failure, both of which stem from inadequate preparation for the examination. Of course, there are a whole lot of other factors, including misplaced societal values, that can aid the breeding and perpetration of examination fraud. It is my humble opinion that the point at which to start the fight against examination malpractice is the provision of facilities and equipment in schools, recruitment, training and retention of the right quality and number of teachers, creation of an atmosphere that is conducive for teaching and learning, promulgation and enforcement of relevant legislations, and of course, public sensitization and advocacy against the evil that examination fraud constitutes. I therefore want to use this opportunity to reiterate my appeal to all stakeholders in

I therefore want to use this opportunity to reiterate my appeal to all stakeholders in education to partner the Council in fighting examination malpractice to a standstill.

The Council, on its part, shall continue to be extra-vigilant at every stage in its process of conducting credible examinations in the Member Countries and sharpen its established monitoring systems to detect and sanction examination impropriety in whatever form it takes.

7.0. COMPUTERIZATION, WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Mr. Chairman and Members, computerization and the deployment of ICT to service delivery remained on the front burners in our policy implementation during the reporting period. Efforts were made to ensure that the Council continued to embrace best practices in all aspects of its operations. In this regard, we made progress in the various offices as follows:

7.1 Headquarters, Accra and Headquarters Office, Lagos

The Headquarters continued to enrich its website with vital information on the operations of the Council, advertisement of vacancies, available consultancy services, research reports, seminar papers, etc, to make it serve its purpose of being a veritable vessel for reaching out to the Council's numerous stakeholders. Because the Headquarters website has been linked directly to those of the National Offices, it is possible to navigate all the websites through that of the Headquarters and access even country-specific data there from. There was increasing evidence during the reporting period that this window of opportunity to access information about the Council was being utilised by stakeholders. This is a pointer to the fact that the website could, in the not-too-distant future, be able to realise its objective of being, among others, an income-generating device.

The acquisition of ICT equipment and tools for staff of Headquarters, Accra and Headquarters Office, Lagos continued within the limits of available resources.

In the course of the reporting year, the Headquarters started exploring the possibility of installing the necessary facilities for video-conferencing/tele-presence in key locations in the Council's offices. It is expected that the facts that will come to light in the next few months regarding the cost of hiring, leasing or owning the facilities will contribute to shaping the direction in which the Council will head on the issue in the next few years. The computerisation of the operations of the Accounts and Audit Departments of the Headquarters Office, Lagos was pursued with vigour in the reporting year. We have, as at now, attained about 90% completion level for the Accounts Department and about 75% for the Audit Department. When this administration embarked on the computerisation and networking of these two departments, our target was for the project to be completed within the first half of 2011. A number of challenges however, emerged along the way and strategies, including appropriate modification of programmes and the mounting of appropriate training for schedule officers, had to be put in place to address them. We are confident that, barring any mishap, the project should be completed before the end of the third quarter of 2012 when the tenure of this administration shall end. The Council is already reaping the benefits of the computerisation as evidenced by the External Auditors' Report on the 2010 Accounts of the Headquarters which stated, for the first time ever, that there were no issues raised on the Headquarters' Financial Statements for the 2010 financial year.

7.2 The Gambia

The Banjul Office received four laptop computers from the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in part fulfillment of the Ministry's promise to supply the National Office with IT equipment in 2011. The Office upgraded its computer programme for Terminal Assessment Mark Entry System, such that all data captured electronically by examiners were automatically transferred to a main file on the server. The Office also commenced the trial run of its newly developed programme for image capture which will facilitate the imprinting of candidates' images on certificates directly from the printer and further enhance the Office's process of printing photo-embossed certificates.

7.3 <u>Ghana</u>

The Accra Office upgraded its bandwidth from 512 MB to 2.0 GB, and this has greatly improved internet access and service delivery to stakeholders. The Office is currently reviewing its various examination systems to further enhance its efficiency in the execution of its examination-related (pre- and post-) activities.

7.3 Liberia

The Monrovia Office completed the installation of ICT networks and connectivity in the office.

7.4 <u>Nigeria</u>

The Lagos Office acquired additional sixteen (16) units of laptop computers, twentyfive (25) units of desktop computers, ten (10) heavy duty printers and two (2) *Photo Scribe 900 Series* scanners during the reporting year.

The office completed the development of the Post-Examinations Department (PED) System and the Aptitude Tests Department (ATD) System. The PED System successfully generated the *Withhold List* for the May/June 2011 WASSCE and the report for the Nigeria Examinations Committee Meeting which was held in November 2011. The development of the Examiners' Sub-system is in progress. The system was trial-run for the November/December 2011 marking exercise. It is expected to be fully operational during the May/June 2012 WASSCE Coordination and Marking exercise.

7.5 Sierra Leone

The Freetown Office acquired five (5) *Nanhro* scanners and installed a network facility to provide internet access to 30 computers for staff. The office also created an electronic mark-capture centre equipped with 12 desktop computers and 2 servers to enable examiners to capture candidates' scores electronically.

8.0. TEST DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

8.1. <u>Test Development</u>

Mr. Chairman and Members, the Test Development Division (TDD) is the Division that handles the development of the test papers for all the examinations conducted by the Council. The Division develops and reviews examination syllabuses, recruits item writers, moderators and examiners and handles the conduct of International Preliminary Coordination and Grade Award Meetings. The Division is also responsible for the editing/compilation of Chief Examiners' Reports, administration of aptitude tests, and the collation and presentation of malpractice cases. During the period covered by this report, the Division undertook all the activities creditably.

8.2. **Research Activities**

Mr. Chairman, the main function of the Research Division is to conduct research into testing techniques and other educational matters that are relevant to the work of the Council. The Division also undertakes the development of aptitude tests, organizes monthly seminars and assists in the training of examiners. The Division, through its Departments, Sections and Units located in the various National Offices, handled a total of nineteen (19) research projects during the period covered by this report. As detailed below, five (5) of the projects were completed and fourteen (14) are on-going:

8.2.1. Completed Projects

8.2.1.1 Accra Department

Perceptions of Stakeholders of the Post-examination Procedures at the Test Administration Division of the Ghana Office (RPA/1/2011)

8.2.1.2 Lagos Department

- (a) WAEC (Nigeria) Staff Perceptions of their Work Environment and Job Satisfaction (RPL/1/2011);
- (b) Turnover of the Registrar Cadre Staff in the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) (RPL/2/2011).

8.2.1.3 Freetown Section

Factors in the Poor Performance of Candidates in Literature-in-English at the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in Sierra Leone (RPF/1/2011)

8.2.1.4 Monrovia Unit

Relationship between Continuous Assessment and Terminal Assessment Scores at the Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examination in Selected Subjects (RPM/1/2011).

8.2.2. Ongoing Projects

8.2.2.1 Accra Department

- (a) Perception of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) by its Stakeholders in Ghana;
- (b) Investigation into 'Test of Practical' and 'Practical Test' in some Science Subjects at WASSCE.

8.2.2.2 Lagos Department

- (a) Assessment of Computer-Linked Pre-Examination Procedures at the Computer Services Division (CSD) of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC);
- (b) Perceptions of the West African Examinations Council by its Stakeholders in Nigeria;
- (c) What Cognitive Levels Do Practical Questions in Selected Subjects in 2007 WASSCE Test?

8.2.2.3 Freetown Section

- (a) WAEC Staff Perceptions of their Work Environment and Job Satisfaction in the Freetown Office;
- (b) Perceptions of the West African Examinations Council by its Stakeholders in Sierra Leone;
- (c) Perceived Causes of Low Candidature in Technical and Vocational Subjects at the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in Sierra-Leone.

8.2.2.4 Monrovia Unit

- (a) Perceptions of the West African Examinations Council by its Stakeholders in Liberia;
- (b) WAEC Staff Perceptions of Their Work Environment and Job Satisfaction in the Monrovia Office.

8.2.2.5 Banjul Unit

- (a) Perceived Factors Responsible for the Poor Performance of Candidates in Literature-in-English at the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in The Gambia;
- (b) WAEC Staff Perceptions of Their Work Environment and Job Satisfaction in The Gambia;

- (c) Impact of the Double Shift Teaching System at the Senior Secondary School Level in The Gambia;
 - (d) Perceptions of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) by its Stakeholders in The Gambia.

8.2.3. Aptitude Test Development Activities

The Aptitude Test Development Department of the Research Division produced aptitude test papers to meet the demands of clients of the National Offices. The test papers produced ranged from *Quantitative Reasoning* (QTR), through *Logical & Analytical Reasoning* (LART) and *Administrative Decision* (ADT) to *Graduate Staff Employment Test* (GSET).

8.2.4 In-house Monthly Seminars

During the year under review, the Research Division organized seminars on various topics at the Accra, Lagos and Freetown Offices as detailed below.

8.2.4.1 <u>Accra</u>

March 25, 2011

Baku J. J. K., Accra Department of the Research Division, WAEC on *Diversification of the School Curriculum: Why were the Objectives not Achieved?*

8.2.4.2 Lagos

(a) February 18, 2011

Mr. Akanbi Samuel Toyin, Department of Educational Psychology, Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo, on *Parental Involvement in Children's Education as Panacea for Academic Underachievement Among Nigerian Students.*

(b) <u>March 7, 2011</u>

Dr. (Mrs.) M. G. Oke, Deputy Registrar/Ag. Head of Research Division and Headquarters Office, Lagos on *The Effect of School Ownership on Candidates' Performance at the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in Nigeria*

(c) <u>March 25, 2011</u>

Dr. O. D. Aremu (MCASSON), Director, Directorate of Guidance & Counselling, Federal College of Education, Kontagora, on *Psychological Factors Responsible for Poor Performance and Examination Malpractice in WASSCE: Strategies for Remediation.*

(d) <u>October 7, 2011</u>

A. A. Adelakun, Test Development Division, WAEC, Lagos and Dr. J. G. Adewale, International Centre for Educational Evaluation, Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, Ibadan on *Examiners' Sociological Factors as Correlates of Absenteeism and Attitude Towards Assessment of Public Examinations.*

(3) <u>Freetown</u>

February 24, 2011

Mr. Mohammed Morie Gendemeh, Dean of Faculty of Education and Community Development Studies, Eastern Polytechnic, Kenema on *Problems and Challenges in Achieving the Lofty Dreams of the 6-3-3-4 Education System in Sierra Leone.*

9.0 **TRAINING COURSES**

(1) Mr. Chairman and Members, the Council sustained its efforts at capacity building and utilization for its workforce. To this end, the Council mounted a number of in-house training courses, arranged for staff to attend some external/international training courses and sponsored staff on some academic courses during the reporting period. The training courses were, to a large extent, geared towards exposing the individual officers to global best practices in their respective fields.

- (2) The internal training courses were:
 - 1 Test Development and Test Administration Course;
 - 1 Standard-fixing and Grade Award Procedures Course;
 - 1 Training on e-Mark Capture;
 - 1 Workplace Attitude and Stress Management Course;
 - 1 Leadership Skills for Senior Managers Course.

- (3) The external/international courses included:
 - 1 Computer Appreciation/Microsoft Office Course;
 - 1 Computerization of the Audit Training Course;
 - 1 WAEC Integrated System Need for Adoption Course;
 - 1 Appraisal and Target Setting Workshop;
 - 1 Life after Service Training Workshop;
 - 1 Mediation Skills Certification Training for Effective Human Capital Development;
 - 1 Logistics and Transport Management Course;
 - 1 Public Examination Development & Administration;
 - 1 Training on Pre/Post-Examination Processing;
 - 1 Workshop on Budgetary Preparation & Management;
 - 1 UNESCO Workshop on Modern Trends in Educational Assessment;
 - 1 IAEA Scholarship Training in Educational Measurement and Evaluation.
- (4) The academic/professional courses/workshops included:
 - 1 Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration;
 - 1 Executive Certificate in Business Administration;
 - 1 International Professional Doctorate in Education (Ed.D).

10.0. CONFERENCES

The Council maintained its corporate membership of some international professional associations which include the Association of Commonwealth Examination and Accreditation Boards (ACEAB), International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) and Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA). The Council also has an observer status in the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

During the reporting period, the Council was represented at the following conferences of some of the Associations:

- (1) The 29th Annual Conference of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) held in Nairobi, Kenya from August 1 to 5, 2011.
- (2) The 37th Annual Conference of the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) held in Manila, Philippines from October 23 to 28, 2011.

Also during the reporting period, some members of staff of the Council attended some national professional conferences as follows:

47th Annual Scientific Conference of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria;

1 51st Annual National Conference of Nigerian Bar Association.

11.0. **PROFESSIONAL VISIT**

The Council continued to foster cooperation and exchange of ideas with other examining bodies. To this end, three Management officers of the Ghana National Office paid a benchmarking visit to the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) from November 21 to 25, 2011. The visit was to reciprocate a similar visit by officers of NECTA to the Council in May 2009.

12.0. **<u>FINANCE</u>**

The Headquarters' approved Budget for 2011 was apportioned to the Member Countries as follows:

Nigeria	-	52.77%	-	\$5,992,832.62
Ghana	-	31.27%	-	\$3,485,021.80
Sierra Leone	-	7.14%	-	\$795,748.50
The Gambia	-	6.10%	-	\$679,841.16
Liberia	-	1.72%	-	\$191,692.92

Ghana was to pay an additional sum of \$279,346.00 as rent and End-of-Service Benefit (ESB), bringing her total contribution for the year to \$3,764,367.00.

Mr. Chairman and Members, although the Headquarters did not receive the full complement of the Member Governments' contribution to its budget for the 2011 financial year, there was some improvement in the funding level relative to the past year or two.

Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia paid their apportioned contribution to the Headquarters for 2011 in full, Sierra Leone paid \$377,150.00 in January 2012 out of the \$795,748.50 (47.4%) apportioned to her for 2011 but The Gambia did not pay anything out of the \$679,841.16 apportioned to her. *Table 5* shows the responses of Member Governments to their expected contribution to the Headquarters' Budget for the 2011 financial year.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEADQUARTERS' BUDGET FOR THE 2011 FINANCIAL YEAR

COUNTRY	APPROVED CONTRIBU TION	СС	PAID)NTRIBU TION	UNPA		DN	
	\$		\$		%	\$	%
The Gambia	679,841	.16	Nil		0	679,841.16	100
Ghana	3,764,367	.80	3,764,3	867.80	100	Nil	0
Liberia	191,692	.92	251,1	02.00	131	(40,590.92)	21
Nigeria	5,992,632	.62	5,992,6	632.62	100	Nil	0
Sierra Leone	795,748	5.50	377,15	50.00	0	795,748.50	100
Total	11,424,283	.00	10,385,2	52.42	88	1,434,998.74	13.27

The total indebtedness of each member country as at December 31, 2011 which is arrived at by adding the outstanding arrears as at December 31, 2010 to the unpaid contribution for 2011 is summarized in *Table 6*.

Table 6: Member Governments' Indebtedness to the Headquarters as at December 31, 2011

		Balance as Dec. 31, 2010	at	Contribution Due in 2011	Payment Made in 2011	Total Indebtedness as at Dec. 31, 2011
RY		,				,
THE GAMB	IA	US\$ 3,406,448.52		US\$ 679,841.16	US\$ Nil	US \$ 4,086,289.68

GHAN	Nil	3,764,367.80	3,764,367.80	Nil
A				
	1,381,972.83	191,692.92	251,102.00	1,322,563.75
LIBERIA				
	Nil	5,992,632.62	5,992,632.62	Nil
NIGERIA				
SIERRA LEONE	4,035,076.84	795,748.50	377,150.00*	4,453,675.34
TOTAL	8,823,498.19	11,424,283.00	10,008,102.42	9,862,528.77
	0,020,730.13	11,727,203.00	10,000,102.42	5,002,020.11

*Payment was made in January 2012 for the 2011 financial year.

The situation with some National Offices did not differ much from that of the Headquarters, as they also had some unpaid subvention by their respective governments.

The Secretariat wishes to register its appreciation to all the Member Governments and their representatives on Council for the efforts being made to ensure the fulfilment of government commitments to the Council. The Secretariat hopes that the year 2012 and beyond will record an even higher level of funding than 2011.

13.0. APPORTIONMENT OF THE HEADQUARTERS' BUDGET 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members, the annual budget of the Headquarters is apportioned to Member Governments based on approved ratios. The ratios are reviewed annually to reflect significant changes in the parameters for the apportionment or developments in the National Offices which might affect the calculation of the ratios. The parameters for determining the ratios are the:

- (1) Cost of the Council's statutory international meetings, apportioned in the ratios of member countries' representation on Council and its international committees;
- (2) Cost of preparation of question papers, shared equally among the countries which use such papers;
- (3) Cost of the operations of the Internal Audit and Research Departments/Sections/Units attached to the National Offices;
- (4) All other costs apportioned in ratios based on the total candidate numbers and subject entries for the international and national examinations conducted in each country, with the entries for the international examinations being given a weighting double those of the national examinations (the ratios are to be calculated on the basis of statistics for the preceding two years).

The cost of providing office and residential accommodation for the Headquarters is borne exclusively by the Government of Ghana. The Government of Ghana also provides for the payment of End-of-Service Benefit (ESB) to Ghanaian staff at the Headquarters.

The International Administrative and Finance (A & F) Committee, at its 156th Meeting held in July 2011, considered the parameters in all their ramifications and approved the following ratios for apportioning the Headquarters' approved budget of US\$12,250,000.00 for the 2012 financial year:

Nigeria	-	51.75%	-	\$6,092,270.00
Ghana	-	30.51%	-	\$3,591,791.00
Sierra Leone	-	8.97%	-	\$1,055,993.00
The Gambia	-	6.46%	-	\$760,504.00
Liberia	-	2.31%	-	\$271,945.00

Ghana was to pay an additional sum of \$120,000.00 as rent and \$35,000.00 as End-of-Service-Benefit (ESB), bringing her total contribution for the year to \$3,746,791.00. (The balance of \$322,497.00 is to be derived from internally generated revenue.)

14.0. AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS

Mr. Chairman, it is the Council's policy that the financial Statements of the National Offices and the Headquarters are presented for auditing on yearly basis. At the national level, the Internal Audit Department prepares its bi-annual inspection reports on the National Offices' accounts and presents to the National Administrative and Finance Committees. The External Auditors review the Final Accounts of each office and present their reports to the respective National Administrative and Finance Committees for consideration. For the Headquarters, the Internal Audit inspection reports as well as the External Auditors' reports are presented to the International Administrative and Finance Committee.

The Auditors' reports (Internal and External) on the accounts of the National Offices and the Headquarters for the 2010 financial year were presented to the Committees during the period under review. The reports indicated that the accounts *gave a true and fair* view of the state of affairs of the individual offices and that there was no fraud in any office. It is significant to report here that, for the first time ever, the External Auditors' Reports on the 2010 Accounts of the Accra Office and the Headquarters, though

prepared by different audit firms, found no issues at all to bring to the attention of the Board.

The decisions and recommendations of the National Administrative and Finance Committees were considered and endorsed by the International Administrative and Finance Committee in January 2012. The International Administrative and Finance Committee also approved the report on the accounts of the Headquarters.

15.0 CAPITAL PROJECTS

15.1 Headquarters, Accra

Mr. Chairman and Members, when the Chairman of Council, in company with the Chief Government Nominees and the Registrar to Council, paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency the President of Ghana, Prof. John Evans Atta Mills, in March 2011, the Council received the assurances of the President that the Government of Ghana remained committed to completing the construction of the Headquarters Office Complex at Okponglo in due course.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to once again, register the Council's deep appreciation to Mr. President for the assurances he gave on that occasion and to the immediate past Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Betty Mould-Iddrisu, the Chief Director of Education, Major S. M. Tara (Rtd) and the Chief Government Nominee, Ms. Benedicta Biney, for their invaluable support and notable efforts at ensuring the translation of the presidential assurances into physical progress on the construction of the office complex. It will be recalled that the office complex was meant to be the Government of Ghana's gift to the Council on the occasion of the Council's *Golden Jubilee* Anniversary in 2002. It is our hope that the project will be completed and handed over to the Council before the end of the first half of 2012.

15.2 Headquarters Office, Lagos

Mr. Chairman and members, I reported to Council in March 2011 that work was in progress on the drawings for the proposed WAEC Headquarters' building project at Agidingbi, Lagos and that the Consultants were making all efforts to conclude the required documentation for the Lagos State Government to issue approval for the construction plan.

I am happy to report that the documentation was concluded on schedule, the Lagos State Government issued all necessary approvals including that of the building plan and construction work has commenced.

I want to express the Council's sincere appreciation to the Government of Nigeria for assisting the Council in the funding of the project.

15.3 Banjul Office

30

The office did not embark on any new capital project during the reporting year. However, a landed property was allocated to WAEC by the Governor of the Upper River Region for the establishment of a Branch Office in Basse. The National Office has commenced the process of documentation to formalize its legal possession of the property. The Office also carried out some routine maintenance works on its existing properties during the reporting period.

15.4 Accra Office

(1) Construction of Examination Hall and Offices at Cape Coast

The Offices at Cape Coast have been completed and are in use. Provision has been made in the 2012 budget for the resumption of work on the 2nd phase, which is the construction of examination hall.

(2) <u>Construction of Security Printing House at Pantang</u>

The ongoing work on the Security Printing facility is about 95% completed. The outstanding work includes terrazzo on a portion of the floor and external horticultural work. Part of the building has been taken over by the Council, printing machines have been installed and operations have commenced there since November 2011. The facility will be inaugurated before the end of the first half of 2012.

(3) <u>Construction of Guest House at No. 25 Agostino Neto Road, Airport</u> <u>Residential Area, Accra</u>

Work on the project is about 92% completed. Progress was hampered by the non-response by the Accra Metropolitan Assembly to the Council's request for the redirection of a public drain which lay across a portion of the plot.

15.5 Monrovia Office

Construction work on the new Regional Office and Printing House project in Tubmanburg, Bomi County is in progress and is likely to be completed before the end of the first half of 2012. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Government of Liberia for providing the funds for this project.

15.6 Lagos Office

The following capital projects were either completed or on-going during the reporting period:

- (1) Completed:
 - (a) Modification works on the new complex for the Port-Harcourt Zonal Office;
 - (b) Renovation of Kano Office.
- (2) On-going:
 - (a) Construction of Security Block at Osogbo Branch Office;
 - (b) Renovation of the (newly purchased) Complex for Maiduguri Office;
 - (c) Reconstruction of the collapsed fence at Ibadan Office.

15.7 Freetown Office

The following projects were either completed or on-going during the reporting period:

- (1) <u>Completed</u>
 - (a) Mending of the leaking roof of the main building of the National Office;
 - (b) Rewiring of the electrical system of the office.
- (2) <u>Ongoing</u>

Construction of a building for the Sales & Marketing Unit and Staff Canteen

16.0. **<u>MEGAVONS</u>**

Mr. Chairman and members, sequel to the conversion of all loans and advances from the various offices to shares as reported in March 2011, the offices have remained shareholders in MEGAVONS (WA) Limited in proportion to the volume of their

shareholding. Some of the offices continue to patronize the company by contracting printing jobs to it and receiving satisfactory services. For instance, during the reporting period, the company successfully printed Season's Greeting Cards and WAEC Annual Reports for the Headquarters. The Banjul Office also awarded to the company the printing of the May 2011 GABECE question papers, which the company executed satisfactorily in line with the stipulations of the Contract Agreement.

17.0. THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Mr. Chairman and Members, the Board of Trustees of the WAEC Endowment Fund, at its January 2012 Meeting, approved the recommendations of the Selection Committee that the *WAEC Excellence Award* in respect of the 2011 WASSCE be given to the following three candidates:

Miss Sakyi, Ann Abena Antwiwaa	(1 st Prize)
Master Hameed, Irbaz	(2 nd Prize)
Miss Adeloye, Christianah Ope	(3 rd Prize)

The three candidates were selected from a total of 1,741, 451 candidates who sat the May/June 2011 WASSCE in the The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

The Board of Trustees also approved that the *Augustus Bandele Oyediran Award for the Best Candidate in West Africa* be given to Miss Sakyi, Ann Abena Antwiwaa.

Similarly, the *National Distinction Award* will be presented to the following three candidates for their outstanding performance in the May/June 2011 WASSCE conducted for a total of 1,539,075 candidates in Nigeria:

Miss Adeloye, Christianah Ope	(1 st Prize)
Miss Omigbodun, Iyeyinka A.	(2 nd Prize)
Miss Nwigbo, Kanayo Uduani	(3 rd Prize)

Also, the Augustus Bandele Oyediran Award for the Best Performing School in Nigeria will be given to Lumen Christi International High School, Uromi while the *Omo N'Oba Erdiauwa Coronation Trophies* will be presented to the Schools that produced the best male and female candidates in Nigeria.

All the awards will be presented at the opening ceremony of the 60th Annual Council Meeting.

At the same ceremony, the Award of *Distinguished Friend of Council* will be conferred on two eminent Nigerians and illustrious citizens of the West African Sub-region, Chief (Mrs.) Margaret Oyebola Shonekan and Prof. Ifedioramma E. Nwana.

On behalf of the Secretariat, I heartily congratulate all the Award Winners.

Mr Chairman, part of the activities lined up to grace the 60th Annual Council Meeting is the 17th WAEC Endowment Fund Lecture titled **Nipping Educational Failure in the Bud**, which was delivered on Monday, March 26, 2012 by Professor Pius Augustine Ike Obanya of Nigeria.

18.0. STAFF MATTERS

18.1. Changes in Management Positions

Mr. Chairman and Members, the following Management cadre staff retired statutorily from the Council's service during the reporting period on the dates indicated against their names:

Mr. F. Selby - DR (Legal Services), Accra Office (10/4/11) Mr. W. A. O. Falowo - DR/Head, ABSD, TDD, Lagos Office (28/5/11) - DR (SED), Lagos Office (24/6/11) Mrs. A. E. Prekebena - DR/Head, Research Department, Accra (19/7/11) Mr. J. J. K. Baku - DR/ZC, Sokoto, Lagos Office (15/8/11) Mr. A. W. Salahudin - Deputy Director (Works), Lagos Office (23/8/11) Mr. J. O. Oladosu - DR/ZC, Ikeja, Lagos Office (31/8/11) Mr. I. O. Salako Mr. A. W. Imram - DR/BC, Lokoja, Lagos Office (18/9/11) Mr. S. O. Daramola - DR/ZC, Abuja, Lagos Office (3/10/11) - DR/Ag. Head, TAD, Lagos Office (20/11/11) Mr. O. A. Olamousi - DR (TAD), Lagos Office (21/1/12) Mr. A. O. Ajala - DD (Finance), Lagos Office (25/2/12) Mr. A. Irogue

The Secretariat joins me to sincerely appreciate these fine officers for their several years of meritorious service to the Council. We also extend to them our best wishes for success and divine blessings in their future endeavours.

The following Management cadre staff will also retire statutorily before the end of this year and specifically on the dates indicated against their names:

Mrs. P. G. A. Ayesu	- Head of National Office, Accra (4/5/12)
Mr. J. Y. Gayvolor, Sr.	- DR/Head, TDD, Monrovia Office (3/6/12)
Mr. J. A. Adewodu	- DR/Head, ATD, TDD, Lagos (26/6/12)
Mr. M. Mafuvwe	- DR/Ag. HOD, TDD, Lagos (20/11/12)
Mr. C. D. Oforha	- DD (e-facility) CSD, Lagos (12/12/12)

18.2. Long Service Awards

It is part of the tradition of the Council to honour its members of staff who have served for twenty years and above without blemish by giving them the prestigious *Long Service Awards*. A total of three hundred and twenty five (325) qualified members of staff received the Awards in the various offices as indicated below:

Headquarters, Accra	-	10
Headquarters Office, Lagos	-	3
Accra Office	-	37
Lagos Office	-	270
Freetown Office	-	4
Banjul Office	-	_1
Total	-	<u>325</u>

Appendix B provides full details of the recipients.

18.3. Staff Appointments and Promotions

During the reporting period, the Council recruited twenty-three (23) new Registrar cadre officers into the various service areas, while ninety (90) serving officers were promoted to various grades across the national offices. Details of staff appointments, promotions and separations will be presented in a separate paper in the course of this Council meeting.

18.4. <u>Transition</u>

I regret to announce, with a deep sense of loss, the passing away during the reporting period, of twelve (12) members of staff of the Council, one in Ghana, nine in Nigeria and two in Sierra Leone. *Appendix C* gives details of the particulars of the deceased. We pray for the peaceful repose of the departed souls. Amen.

19.0 THE YEAR AHEAD

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice-Chairman, Distinguished Council Members, there is no doubt that the year under review has been another successful one for us. We started the year, determined to ride on the crest of the successes of the previous year to launch the Council onto greater heights. We pledged to pursue with added vigour the accomplishment of the Council's Vision and Mission. We resolved to deploy all efforts in setting and maintaining the standard in all aspects of the Council's operations and holding sacrosanct the integrity of its examinations. We renewed our resolve to keep pace with global developments in the educational assessment industry, deploy ICT to every possible aspect of our service delivery and as such, give a push to our level of efficiency in the execution of the Council's business. We laid out our strategies for aggressive capacity-building for the Council's internal and external stakeholders, the re-organization of its operational processes and procedures and a resultant change in the face and complexion of our flagship organisation.

I want to say with every sense of modesty that we have achieved most, if not all the targets that we set for ourselves at the beginning of the reporting year. And, I must say that our hopes are very high that the year ahead holds the promise of very bright days for our organisation.

Let me be quick to point out here that I am very conscious of the fact that my tenure as Registrar to Council will surely end in the next six months and that my successor in office will be coming in with his own vision and mission for the Council. The *change of baton* will, however, not remove anything from the constancy of the Council and the sanctity of its scheduled activities.

It is on that note that I want to assure Council that the Secretariat will, in the coming year, spare no effort at ensuring that the Mission and Vision of the Council are pursued with vigour and that the business of the Council is conducted with the commitment and efficiency that it deserves.

We will not relent in our efforts at collaborating with governments, relevant educational agencies, institutions and examining bodies. We will continue to showcase the strengths and potentials of the Council. There shall be no loss of steam in our efforts at constantly building a highly skilled and adequately equipped workforce through training, retraining and exposure for greater efficiency. If and when approved, the 5-Year Strategic Plan shall be made to serve as a tool for inculcating the Council's core value of **excellence** into every member of staff. The targets and direction set in the Strategic Plan document shall guide our steps in the year ahead.

20.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chairman, Distinguished Members, I should not conclude this report which is my last as Registrar to Council, without expressing my appreciation of the support, encouragement and cooperation that I have enjoyed from various quarters during my tenure.

I give every honour and glory to the Almighty Allah for the grace which He graciously granted me to serve as the eleventh Registrar to Council.

In my first report to Council in March 2008, I informed Council of my vision of "an excellent WAEC that gives the pride of place to the accomplishment of its mandate in every member country and goes further to remain the lead-setter, lead-maintainer and lead-custodian of educational assessment standards in the West African sub-region and indeed in Africa; one that is uncompromisingly committed to building and sustaining an efficient service-delivery system; one that values educational research, not as an end in itself but as a means to the attainment of excellence in educational assessment and development; one that partners relevant international, professional organizations or agencies in the pursuit of excellence in educational assessment; one that believes that its strength lies in its staff and so, strives to adequately equip, enable and motivate every staff within the limits of available resources; one in which every staff is proud to belong and remain, seeing as his/her goal the accomplishment of the Council's Mission and the realization of the Council's Vision; one that recognizes and rewards hard work and other virtues while condemning and sanctioning indolence and other vices".

With every sense of humility, I believe that the team that I have led at the Secretariat, in the journey so far into my five-year tenure, has spared no effort and left no stone unturned in bringing about the actualisation of this vision.

We applied ourselves with dogged commitment to the accomplishment of the Council's Vision, Mission and mandate in all the Member Countries.

We succeeded in bringing the various offices to a comparable level of ICT deployment to service delivery. Five years ago, Lagos was the only office that had moved from manual to electronic registration of candidates for WASSCE. Today, registration of candidates for all examinations conducted by the Council is done electronically in all National Offices without exception.

Despite the constraint posed by the lean resources at our disposal, we strove to advance in the acquisition of ICT equipment and facilities to a level that can enable us to

deliver our services more promptly and with greater efficiency within and beyond our Member Countries.

We pursued with zeal our set policy of building the capacity and sharpening the skills of our staff as well as our item writers, moderators and examiners. All offices commenced electronic capturing of candidates' scores by examiners at marking venues. The dividend from our investment in the acquisition of ICT equipment complemented with human capital development is the prompt release of results which now takes place in just about 75 days after the examination.

We cleared the backlog of unprinted certificates. Certificates that remained unprinted for as far back as 2001 and 2003 in most offices have all been printed in all offices **except** Freetown.

We churned out statistical data and produced research reports and other publications that served and will continue to serve as feedback mechanisms and provide the basis for educational policy formulation and implementation in the West African sub-region.

The operations of the Accounts and Audit Departments in Lagos were computerized and the networking of the two departments is almost completed. Meetings of Council and its international Committees have gone paperless.

We redesigned, upgraded and updated the existing websites to serve as a tool for reaching out more effectively to the Council's publics worldwide while new ones were created in offices where none existed. Some existing operational manuals were revised while some new ones were prepared.

We endeavoured to widen the scope of the Council's mandate by exploring all avenues for extending the Council's services, at least, to the French-speaking countries of West Africa. Inspection visits were paid to two schools, one in Dakar, Senegal and one in Bamako, Mali with a view to using these as inroads to the French–speaking West African countries. On the home front, we succeeded in getting the Government of Liberia to commit itself to joining the rest of the Member Countries in the WASSCE system within the shortest possible time. Barring any unforeseen development, Liberia should be presenting her first set of WASSCE candidates in May/June 2013.

We collaborated and cooperated well with stakeholders and examining bodies internationally. We exchanged benchmarking visits and discussed issues of mutual benefit with some of our foreign counterparts, especially in Africa. Within the last five years, the officers of the Council held key positions (President, Regional Representative, and Treasurer) in the Executive Committee of AEAA and recorded top performance. Various capital projects were undertaken by the National Offices and the Headquarters, including three by the Accra Office - the construction of Examination Hall and Offices at Cape Coast , Security Printing House at Pantang and Guest House in Accra; one by the Monrovia Office – the construction of Regional Office and Printing House in Tubmanburg, Bomi County; one by the Lagos Office - construction of Security Block at Osogbo; and one by the Headquarters - construction of Guest House, Conference/Events Centre and Administrative Block in Lagos. These projects will, among others, enhance the security and integrity of the Council's test papers, save cost and boost the internally generated income of the National Offices and the Headquarters so that in the years ahead, the Council will be less dependent on Member Governments for financial survival.

We were relentless in our resolve to remain on top of the daunting challenge of examination fraud. And I dare say we succeeded to a very great extent in making the leakage of our question papers a thing of the past. Conducting nine consecutive leakage-free series of national examinations in all Member Countries and seven consecutive leakage-free series of international examinations in majority of the subscribing countries in four-and-a-half years is evidence of our success. The conduct of this number of leakage-free examinations in these past four years is, perhaps, *the icing on the cake* of achievements recorded by this administration.

We even broke new grounds by developing a well structured, 5-Year Strategic Plan for the Council for appropriate guidance and direction.

And, not by any means the least, we increased the staff strength in all offices and implemented a series of staff welfare packages that aimed at improving the lot of our officers and staff, boosting their morale and motivating them to continue to give of their best in the service of the Council. We recognized and rewarded hard work and other virtues through commendation, upgrading and promotion of deserving officers and staff and, of course, we never hesitated to bring erring staff to book in accordance with the Council's extant regulations.

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chairman, Distinguished Members, I consider myself fortunate and favoured by providence to have had your calibre of men and women on Council while I serve as Registrar. The modest successes recorded by the Council in my tenure have been facilitated largely by the understanding, support and encouragement which the Secretariat under my leadership received from the past and present Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Leaders of Delegation and Members of Council. Added to these is the atmosphere of peace, cordiality and strong ties that existed and still exists among the Member Countries and enables the Secretariat to execute the Council's mandate successfully. I cannot thank you enough.

Our Member Governments have continued striving hard, even in the face of scourging economic meltdown, to sustain WAEC and make it possible for the Council to deliver quality service to stakeholders. We appreciate the support of our Member Governments and we want to assure them that the confidence that they repose in us shall be guarded jealously and the resources that they put at our disposal shall continue to be managed prudently.

My sincere gratitude goes to all government functionaries who have remained the link between the Council and their respective governments and whose doors were open to the Council at all times during my tenure. These functionaries include the Ministers, Permanent Secretaries/Chief Directors, Directors and other top officers in the Ministry of Education of each Member Country.

I also wish to appreciate the Council's service providers who make the successful conduct of our examinations achievable. They include the item writers, item moderators, invigilators, supervisors, examiners and script checkers. There is nothing the Council could have achieved without the cooperation of these service providers.

Mr. Chairman and Members, please permit me to appreciate the members of my team here present and invite them to stand up for recognition – HNOs, Heads of Department at Headquarters, RPCC members. Through those who are here present, let me appreciate the team members who are not privileged to be here - all the officers and staff of WAEC in all the offices, who together, constitute the force behind the Council's numerous achievements. Together as a team in the last four-and-a-half years, we pushed the boundaries, we broke new grounds and we took our great organization to a whole new level. We can only hope that the in-coming administration will do even better and attain even greater heights so that like diamonds, WAEC will continue to glitter forever. I feel very proud to be associated with each and every member of the team. And, I say well done and keep the flag flying higher and higher.

Mr. Chairman, I feel highly privileged and divinely favoured to have been opportune to work in WAEC and serve my Creator through service to Mankind. I was appointed an Assistant Registrar II on May 1, 1977 and assumed office on May 2, 1977. Incidentally, that was my 26th birthday. By God's grace, I will be sixty-one years old on May 2, 2012. By simple arithmetical calculation, I have spent more years in the Council than outside it. I make bold to say, without any attempt at being immodest, that mine have been years of devotion to duty and commitment to the ideals for which the Council stands. Having started my career in WAEC from the very bottom of the ladder of international staff, I feel very much fulfilled that I am ending it at the very top as Registrar/Chief Executive.

I thank the Almighty Allah for the divine favour and the abundance of His grace which He has generously showered on me. I thank Him even for the coincidence of the end of my tenure with the Council's *Diamond Jubilee* and I pray that just as *diamonds are forever*, so may WAEC be. *Amen*.

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chairman, Leaders of Delegation, distinguished members of Council, Colleagues all, I thank you all and I pray that the bountiful grace of God will be with each and every one of you as you fulfil your years of service to this organization.

Thank you and God bless.

Headquarters, Accra March 2012