NATIONAL TEACHING COUNCIL

Q&As FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHER LICENSING

Introduction

The National Teaching Council (NTC) is an agency of the Ministry of Education mandated by the Education Act 2008 (ACT 778) to promote teacher professionalism in Ghana.

1. What do we do at NTC?
   - License and Register teachers
   - Develop and periodically review professional practice and ethical standards
   - Provide framework for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of teachers
   - Collaborate with National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) to regulate teacher training

2. Why should teachers be licensed and registered?
   - The license is the only legal authorisation to practise as a teacher in Ghana
   - It signifies that the teacher meets the knowledge and skills required by NTC
   - It enhances the teacher’s employability globally
   - It gives recognition to a teacher as a member of a profession

3. How are teachers licensed and registered?
   - They must have completed initial teacher training programme (Diploma, B.Ed, PGDE etc).
   - The training institution must have uploaded the pass list onto the NTC portal
   - They must have passed the Ghana Teacher Licensure Examination (GTLE)
   - They must have been given a provisional license
   - They must have completed induction programme (this includes portfolio assessment)
   - Full license is then issued

NB: Teachers already employed before September, 2018 will be issued with the license without writing the GTLE

4. How will teachers with foreign qualifications be licensed?
   - They must have submitted certificates for verification and confirmation by National Accreditation Board (NAB) before applying for the license
   - They must pass the GTLE
   - They might have gone through induction programme
   - Full license will then be issued
NB: Licensed Foreign Teachers might be exempted from the GTLE and induction programme

5. Will applicants pay for licensing and registration?
   - There are legally approved fees for GTLE, licensing and registration as well as renewal

6. After licensing what next?
   - Undergo CPD
   - Build portfolio
   - Adhere to prescribed Standards and professional ethics
   - Renew license

7. What is CPD?
   It refers to the process by which teachers maintain and enhance their knowledge, skills and experiences as they work after any initial training.

8. What goes into CPD?
   - Mandatory programmes
     These are essential trainings that every teacher is expected to attend through Professional Learning Community (PLC) programmes such as SBI, CBI, DBI
   - Rank based programmes (Community of Practice)
     These are training programmes expected to be attended by teachers in specific ranks, classes, subjects or positions to deal with specific issues in relation to their assigned roles. (School Improvement Officers, Heads of Schools, HODs, Directors of Education, Subject Teachers etc)
   - Recommended programmes
     These are trainings which are recommended by NTC based on needs assessment
   - Portfolio building
     It is a detailed record of training programmes and activities attended by a teacher within a specified period, that is, between the issuance of the license to its renewal

9. What are Professional Standards and Ethics?
   They are set of guidelines and ethics that govern the conduct of all professional teachers. The National Teachers’ Standards specifies competences required by individual teachers at the various levels.
So, to develop and exhibit required competences for their work, teachers are expected to undergo specified professional trainings at various levels as has been spelt out by the National Teachers’ Standards.

These trainings include Mandatory ones, rank-based ones and Post Graduate Diploma in Education for teachers without an education certificate.

10. **Would teacher licensing lead to job loss?**
   - The licensing regime will not kick trained teachers out of service irrespective of their qualification.