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My Ref. No.....

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GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW
P.O. BOX 179
Accra-Ghana

12th June 2026

Dear Dean,

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS UNDER
THE LEGAL EDUCATION ACT, 2026 (ACT 1170)

INTRODUCTION

I have been directed by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to convey to you the following Policy Directives. The Policy Directives were arrived at in consultation with the Chairman of the General Legal Council.

I am happy to note that the Policy Directives are substantially aligned with the recommendations made by the Conference of Law Deans at its emergency meeting on the impending reforms held on the 13th of May 2026.

As you are well aware, the Legal Education Act, 2026 (Act 1170), has been passed by Parliament, assented to by the President, and gazetted. However, the new Council for Legal Education and Training (CLET), established under the Act, is yet to be constituted. This letter serves as a set of Interim Policy Directives covering some very urgent matters.

The Act has introduced significant reforms to legal education in Ghana, particularly the decentralisation of professional legal training to accredited law faculties. However, between the coming into force of the law and the resumption of the next academic year in August/September 2026, there will not be sufficient time for the accreditation of faculties to immediately commence the Law Practice Training (LPT) Programme under the new regime.

At the same time, there remains a substantial backlog of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) graduates awaiting admission into professional legal education. Under the system established by the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) and the Legal Profession (Professional and Post-Call Law Course) Regulations, 2018 (L.I. 2355), which is now being phased out, LLB graduates are required to pass an entrance examination organised by the Independent Examinations Committee (IEC) in order to gain admission to the Ghana School of Law (GSL). Lately, about 3,000 to 4,000 LLB graduates sit for the examination annually, but only a fraction obtain admission each year, thereby creating a significant accumulation of backlog students of approximately 5,000 to 8,000 students.

There is therefore a need for transitional arrangements with the introduction of the new Act to:

- A. Provide clarity to students graduating with an LLB this year on the new pathway for progression to the Bar;
- B. Provide clarity to the existing backlog of LLB graduates on the new pathway for progression to the Bar;
- C. Prepare faculties for the implementation of the new legal education framework; and
- D. Ensure continuity and stability within legal education during the transition period.

A. PROPOSED TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH AN LLB THIS YEAR

In order to ensure a smooth transition to the new legal education regime, the following directives are hereby issued:

1. Temporary Extension of Academic Programmes by Faculties

Any law faculty that is accredited by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), may, as an interim measure, seek approval from their Faculty Boards, Academic Boards, or University Councils to allow their graduating LLB classes to remain for an additional academic year. During that year, they will complete the complement of theoretical courses they need in order to commence professional legal training. This will be called the **Pre-Bar Course**.

Although some students may have already completed one or two theoretical subjects currently run at the Ghana School of Law, such as Company Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution during their LLB studies, in all instances, students will not have completed the full complement of theoretical courses usually covered before the Call to the Bar. There is a need for structured transitional arrangements to bridge these curricular gaps.

The additional academic year for the Pre-Bar Course should be used to offer the following courses:

- Company Law;
- Commercial Law;
- Alternative Dispute Resolution;
- Family Law;
- Interpretation of Deeds and Statutes; and
- any other relevant elective subjects (including those that the faculties may include to make up any minimum credit requirements).

Faculties will provide an attestation to students, certifying that they have completed the said theoretical courses to qualify them to undertake the LPT, sit for the National Bar Examinations, and be called to the Bar.

It is estimated that the Pre-Bar Course will commence in August/September 2026 and run for a couple of years only. Going forward, Faculties should spread the balance of theoretical courses across the period of LLB studies, so that as students graduate, they would have completed all of them.

This arrangement will allow the Council for Legal Education and Training (CLET) and the Faculties sufficient time to prepare for accreditation to run the LPT Programme, while ensuring current final-year students are adequately prepared for subsequent professional legal training.

2. Partnership or Offloading Arrangements with the Ghana School of Law

Faculties which are unable or unwilling to run the Pre-Bar Course may enter into arrangements with the Ghana School of Law to enable their students undertake the necessary courses there.

This may involve complete offloading of students to GSL for transitional purposes; or hybrid arrangements where Faculties run portions of the programme, while GSL provides support for the remaining components.

3. Option for Law Faculties to Admit LLB Graduates who are not part of their Graduating Classes

Under this arrangement, any GTEC accredited Law Faculty may also admit for the Pre-Bar Course, LLB Graduates from other universities or from the backlog.

4. The Two-Year Pathway to the Bar for Students Graduating with an LLB this Year.

In summation, students graduating with an LLB this year may do the Pre-Bar Course in their university, in any other university with a law programme accredited by GTEC, or at the Ghana School of Law. The standard subjects to be taught for the Pre-Bar Course, and for a maximum of one academic year, are:

- Company Law
- Commercial Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Family Law
- Interpretation of Deeds and Statutes.

The following academic year, and upon successful completion of the Pre-Bar Course, the students may undertake the LPT Programme in any university that is accredited by the CLET to run that programme. The courses to be taught for the LPT Programme are:

- Civil Procedure
- Criminal Procedure
- Law of Evidence
- Conveyancing and Drafting
- Advocacy and Legal Ethics
- Law Practice Management and Legal Accounting.

B. PROPOSED TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BACKLOG OF LLB GRADUATES

Backlog students do not fall within the category of "existing students" protected under the transitional provisions of the new law. Consequently, such students will be required to comply with the new structure for legal education once admitted into professional legal training.

In light of Section 90 of the new Act, which repeals Regulations 1 to 22 of L.I. 2355, the Independent Examinations Committee (IEC) and the entrance examination regime for admission into professional legal training have been abolished. Consequently, admission into the new professional legal training framework may not be made contingent upon any entrance examination conducted by the IEC.

Accordingly, backlog students seeking to enter the new system may either:

1. Apply to any university law programme accredited by GTEC to undertake the Pre-Bar Course: or
2. Apply to the Ghana School of Law to undertake the Pre-Bar Course.

Admissions shall be determined by the respective institutions in accordance with their internal academic rules, admission policies, capacity considerations, and applicable regulatory requirements.

Backlog students admitted under this arrangement will undertake the balance of required foundational theoretical courses before progressing to take the practical requirements of the LPT Programme, in accordance with the new legal education framework. The courses are the same as those listed above for students graduating with an LLB this year.

C. PREPARING FACULTIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LEGAL EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

During the transitional period, the accreditation processes for Faculties will commence, with the objective of ensuring that by the 2027/2028 academic year, accredited Faculties are fully prepared to independently run the LPT Programme under the new law.

Faculties should therefore:

- Conduct gap analyses of their existing curricula;
- Recruit or develop practice-oriented Faculty capacity;
- Improve facilities and infrastructure;
- Engage in structured collaborations with other Faculties and the GSL to assuage capacity deficits; and
- Prepare to apply for accreditation when the portal opens up in October 2026.

D. CONCLUSION

These Interim Policy Directives are intended to ensure an orderly and effective transition to the new legal education regime, especially for students graduating with an LLB this year, while simultaneously addressing the long-standing backlog of LLB graduates in Ghana.

I will appreciate the immediate dissemination of these directives to your various stakeholders, including students; alumni; university, faculty, and departmental authorities; and continuous monitoring of compliance.

Yours in the Service of Mother Ghana,



**PROFESSOR RAYMOND A. ATUGUBA
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND
DIRECTOR OF THE GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW**

DISTRIBUTION:

DEANS OF THE FOLLOWING FACULTIES/SCHOOLS

1. Accra Metropolitan University, School of Law
2. Ashesi University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
3. Central University, Faculty of Law
4. Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Faculty of Law
5. Greenfield College, Faculty of Law
6. KAAF University College, Faculty of Law
7. Kings University College, Faculty of Law, Governance and International Relations
8. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Faculty of Law

9. Lancaster University, Faculty of Law
10. Mountcrest University, Faculty of Law
11. Pentecost University, Faculty of Law
12. Presbyterian University, Faculty of Law
13. University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS), Faculty of Law
14. University of Cape Coast, Faculty of Law
15. University for Development Studies (UDS), Faculty of Law
16. University of Ghana, School of Law
17. University of Professional Studies (UPSA), School of Law
18. Wisconsin International University College, Ghana, Faculty of Law
19. Zenith University College, Ghana, Faculty of Law

CC:

1. His Lordship the Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana and Chairman of the General Legal Council (GLC)
2. The Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
3. The Honourable Minister for Education
4. The Director-General, Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC)
5. The Registrar, Ghana School of Law
6. The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities with Law Programmes Accredited by GTEC