

**PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA THROUGH THE UPPER
EAST REGIONAL MINISTER ON THE APPROVAL OF THE GURUNE LANGUAGE AS AN
EXAMINABLE SUBJECT IN BASIC SCHOOLS**

Your Excellency, BONABOTO petitions your High Office for the approval of the Gurune Language by the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service as an examinable subject at the basic schools in our local area.

BONABOTO is an acronym for the association of the people of Bolgatanga, Nangodi, Bongo and Tongu traditional areas of the upper East Region of Ghana.

BONABOTO and other stakeholders including traditional rulers and other renowned educationist from the area to get the Minister of Education and the Ghana Education Service to approve the Gurune Language as an examinable subject in the curriculum of basic schools have proved futile after several attempts.

The Gurune Language is technically advanced and meets the requirements of an examinable language in Ghana which are currently in the national school curriculum. The Gurune Language is also being taught at five colleges of Education and is one of the languages studied at Gur-Gonja Language Department of the University of Education, Winneba. We find it extremely unfair that despite all the financial, intellectual and material resources invested into the development of the language, the language is still non-examinable at the basic schools.

In congruence with the Government policy of the L1(First language of the child) usage in the basic schools, we wish to state that the inability of the authorities to approve the Gurune language is in direct contravention of this laudable government policy.

The inability of the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service to approve the language has negatively affected the educational progression of most of the pupils from the catchment area since they are technically disadvantaged, by being graded with best six out of seven instead of best six out of eight as is done in other areas.

Your Excellency, we currently have over two hundred trained Gurune language specialists from the University of Education Winneba, several hundred Gurune teachers from five Colleges of Education and several teaching and learning materials including a dictionary. We are of the opinion that approving the language now, will go a long way to engender the educational fortunes of our sons and daughters from the four administrative districts of the BONABOTO area in the Upper East Region. Children from adjoining districts who understand the language will also benefit from its inclusion as an examinable language.

We therefore wish to appeal to your Excellence the President of the Republic of Ghana to have the Gurune Language approved as an examinable subject so that our children can be

registered for the upcoming Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in 2014/2015 academic year.

Your Excellency, we thank you and believe that our petition will be given a favorable response

Thank you your Excellency.

Lance Adua Adoguba

National President (Outgoing)