



PRESS RELEASE

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION VERSUS TANIT LTD

Eduwatch has since 2020 been monitoring the use of COVID-19 and related funds as part of Government's COVID-19 response in the Education Sector under the US\$ 218 million GALOP Project. In November 2021, Eduwatch published the Ghana Education Sector COVID-19 Resilience Report, which raised serious issues relating to spending efficiency in the deployment of digital infrastructure by the Ministry of Education. The report observed duplications, lack of coordination, lack of awareness, and low usage of virtual learning and training platforms costing over GHC 20 million cedis under the auspices of the Ghana Library Authority and the Ministry of Education.

An example is the controversial contract between the Ministry of Education and TANIT LTD, an IT firm, to provide a service that could have been undertaken with existing facilities and resources available to the Ministry of Education.

In July 2021, the Ministry of Education signed a contract worth GHC 5.7 million with TANIT LTD, an IT Service Provider, to design, develop and deploy digital teacher training content and platform under the GALOP Project by November 2021. The service was required to meet a target of training 40,000 teachers by the end of November 2021.

According to the Ministry of Education, TANIT LTD failed to deliver according to schedule, leading to the expiration of the contract, compelling the Ministry of Education to train the 40,000 teachers on another existing platform available to the Ministry of Education without any additional cost.

We are aware that the Ministry has since written to TANIT LTD for a refund of the initial payment of GHC 859,000 for which TANIT LTD is rather insisting on the payment of the remaining GHC 4.9 million based on its claim that the contract was completed regardless of the delay.

After a careful review of the contractual arrangement and outcomes, Eduwatch submits the following positions:

1. The TANIT contract was unnecessary, and only fed into a string of procurement activities under the COVID-19 Resilience Programme of the Ministry of Education with no value for money and spending efficiency, especially when the Ministry claims it eventually leveraged on existing platforms to train the 40,000 teachers for whom this envisioned TANIT platform was meant.
2. Per our information, TANIT LTD was contracted through a single source procurement activity which is regrettably a norm at the Ministry of Education. While the firm is virtually unknown among leading IT Solutions companies in

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Ghana, one wonders about the justification for its single-source procurement by the Ministry of Education. The failure of TANIT LTD to deliver is enough indication that the company lacked the capacity to deploy within the five months contracted period. A competitive procurement approach would have provided better options.

3. We support the efforts of the Ministry of Education to recover all payments made to TANIT LTD in view of their non-performance, and further urge the Ministry to sue for a refund of the said GHC 859,000 paid to TANIT LTD and other consequential losses incurred because of the failure of TANIT LTD to deliver on their contractual obligations.

4. In lieu of any refund by TANIT LTD or suit by the Ministry of Education within the next 30 days, we [Eduwatch] shall instruct our lawyers to file an official complaint of financial loss at the Office of the Special Prosecutor.

The education sector has very severe funding constraints, the reason there exists over 5,000 schools taking place under trees and sheds, 4,000 primary schools lacking a JHS, leading to high drop rates especially in rural areas, and 40% of basic school pupils lacking desks. In such a situation, we can only continue to appeal to the Honourable Minister of Education to prioritize spending efficiency, value for money, and make competitive procurement the norm for all major procurement activities at the Ministry of Education and its agencies.

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