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Public Jobs Open Jan 2013

The ban on public sector employment is expected to end in December 2012, **BUSINESS GUIDE** has reliably learnt.

There are also indications that despite the high number of jobless graduates roaming the streets of the country, there are a lot of vacancies in a number of public sector organizations, including the ministries.

The situation is so because the IMF and World Bank placed a moratorium on employment in the public sector of country.

Checks by **BUSINESS GUIDE** showed that there were a number of vacant positions at some organizations for instance Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Ghana Audit Service and the Ministry of Agriculture.

However, recruitment has been frozen because of the fiscal stabilization programme adopted by the government in 2009 in order to access credit from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strengthen the economy.

The stabilization programme ends in December 2012.

However, graduates are searching for non-existent jobs in the private sector.

The Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA) noted that the stabilization programme had affected the nation's growth, adding that the stance could increase unemployment and poverty.

According to the economic and policy think tank, the pace of disinflation had also reduced aggregate demand and the tempo of economic activity.

Employment and Social Welfare Minister E.T Mensah, in February, admitted that there were vacancies in various ministries and government institutions but they could not be occupied due to restrictions imposed by Ghana's donor partners.

According to the minister, the restrictions were attached to some credit facilities offered government by the partners.

The minister's pronouncement was a confirmation of a widely-held view that the government froze public sector employment due to the Economic Governance and Poverty Reduction credit facility that it received from the World Bank.

Although the government was hesitant, at that time, in conceding that its hands were tied, Mr. Mensah's statement at a public forum, attended by the UK minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham, confirmed the earlier reports.

Dr. Joe Abbey, Executive Director, CEPA, told **BUSINESS GUIDE** in an interview that there was a price to pay for implementing the stabilization programme, adding that CEPA cautioned government that there would be a slowdown in the economy.

He however advised governments to manage the economy prudently to prevent excessive pressure that will erode gains chalked in the past.

"It has been identified that hotly contested elections has led us into financial crisis. We better make sure 2012 does not return us to financial crisis," said Dr. Abbey.

He noted that “For us in CEPA, it is not a matter of the price we paid for is good...the question is who pays for the price. We at CEPA fear that when decisions like this are made, it is the weak in society, politically and socially who suffer most and are paying the price. That for us is unjustified,” he added.

Recently, a report revealed that at least 50 percent of fresh graduates from the country’s universities and polytechnics would have to wait for some years before landing their first jobs because of lack of space in the economy.

Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, who disclosed this, said 50 percent of those who left “our universities will not find jobs after national service for two years. And I know that for 20 percent of them they will not find jobs for three years or more.”

In 2006, about 2.6 million Ghanaians were were jobless, with some deciding not to work, according to an earlier research which was conducted by labour economist, Dr. William Baah Boateng.

The report disclosed that 44.8 percent of graduates from universities, polytechnics and other tertiary institutions were jobless.

Source: Business Guide