

## **Addendum to the Senior Secondary Curriculum Framework The Special Case of Technical/Vocational Streams & Subject**

### **Introduction:**

The SSS curriculum framework does not cater for technical and vocational subjects as this is the purview of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE). However, provision needs to be made for learners who wish to access technical & vocational subjects after BECE. Such learners are nominally too young for MTHE institutions and should therefore be catered for in senior secondary schools. At present, around 15-20 senior secondary schools offer technical vocational education in the form of stand-alone subjects taught for a few periods a week. This is inadequate for preparing technical-vocational specialists. Human capital development in this area requires a coherent package of subjects in technical-vocational fields that schools can offer for a substantial number of periods per week. These schools must also have appropriate facilities, adequate staff, and relevant equipment for learners to become reasonably competent in these fields.

### **Technical/Vocational Challenges:**

The case for technical-vocational education is that it contributes to human capital development in vital sectors of the economy. At senior secondary level, the challenges that must be addressed to enhance the job prospects of learners and contribute to human capital development include:

- Need for coherent and comprehensive streams that are designed to reflect the requirements for achieving key competencies in specific fields of technical-vocational education.
- Need for a package of subjects (and syllabuses) that contribute to achieving key competencies in each of the technical-vocational streams offered in specialist senior secondary schools.
- Need for qualified & experienced teachers/instructors, capable of successfully implementing technical-vocational subject syllabuses in the schools.
- Need for appropriate facilities, relevant equipment, and adequate materials (consumables) to support teaching & learning of technical-vocational subjects at senior secondary level.

### **Proposed Specialist Senior Secondary Schools:**

Based on the above, it is proposed that Sierra Leone should establish a set of ***“Specialist Senior Secondary Schools”*** with requisite staff, facilities, equipment, and materials to offer credible technical-vocational streams & subjects. These specialist schools should be equitably distributed across the 16 districts, making use of schools that already offer some form of technical-vocational education. Planning for these schools will require a situational analysis and a costing exercise.

**Suggested Technical/Vocational Streams & Subjects:**

The technical-vocational streams to be offered will depend on human capital priorities as well as pragmatic considerations of what can reasonably be afforded in the school system. Whatever technical-vocational streams are selected, it is important that the subject syllabuses be designed to accomplish at least 4 strands of teaching and learning as follows:

- (a) Theory – dealing with concepts, principles, processes, pertaining to the subject.
- (b) Application – dealing with how principles, processes, etc., are used in practice in the field.
- (c) Practical Work – doing competently elements that constitute practice/craft in this field.
- (d) Industrial Attachment – doing practice/craft in real work contexts (Work Experience).

Based on the above, suggestions for technical-vocational streams in 2 broad fields are shown:

Suggested Streams for 2 Broad Fields of Technical-Vocational Education	
Engineering Industry Streams	Hospitality Industry Streams
The built Environment (Construction) Fabrication & Mechanization Electricals & Electronics General Repairs & Maintenance	Foods & Beverages Homes/Hotels & Restaurants Clothing/Textiles & Fashion Tourism & Environment

**Decisions on The Way Forward:**

In the short-term, the current pattern of stand-alone technical-vocational subjects will continue in limited number of schools that offer these subjects at WAEC/NCTVA. Moving forward, a costed 5-year plan will be developed for establishing a finite set of Specialist Senior Secondary Schools across all districts, to offer comprehensive streams of technical-vocational subjects.

**Work Plan & Schedule of Activities:**

**Situational Analysis** – current subjects in schools, state/prospect of industries, facilities, Equipment, Materials, Costs & Affordability, Work Experience Prospects,

**Tentative decisions** on Technical-Vocational Streams – Number, Types, Constituent Subjects.

**Develop costed 5-Year Plan**, and proposal for funding by Government & development partners.