

Parents Urged To Get E-Zwich For Their Wards

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The Chief Executive of Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GhIPSS) Fred France has encouraged parents to take their wards along to their banks to acquire e-zwich cards. The advice is directed at parents who have children in Senior High Schools.

The idea is to enable parents to be able to remit their wards in boarding schools using the e-zwich without the hassle of travelling to the schools.

Mr. France said now that the Senior High Schools are on vacation, parents should take the opportunity to ensure that their children have the biometric cards before they return to school.

The use of the e-zwich for money transfer has gained currency and officials of GhIPSS want parents to also use this channel to send money to their wards. Already, a number of banks including Ghana Commercial Bank, uniBank and UT Bank have visited some schools to enrol students. But now that the students are home, the officials are hoping that many more of them will be able to secure the smart cards.

GhIPSS together with the commercial banks are deploying e-zwich Point of Sales (POS) terminals at the various schools to enable students to access cash or save cash on their e-zwich cards. The POS will also be available for the students to pay their school fees using the smart cards. This project is expected to introduce a lot of innovation and efficiency into payment systems at the schools.

Speaking in an interview, Mr. France said it would be useful for parents to give their wards a head-start by assisting them to acquire the e-zwich card, which is for free, while on holiday. He explained that since the e-zwich card comes with a savings wallet, parents can also encourage their wards to save part of their money in it. He added that since every transaction with the e-zwich comes with a receipt, parents who so desire can monitor how the monies are spent.

Mr. France noted that it is very important to get as many students as possible to acquire the e-zwich in order to cultivate the habit of using an electronic payment card, which is the order of the day in most advanced countries. According to him, if the country has to get used to an electronic form of payment then, it is crucial to ensure that the students are on board.

Mr. France also advised parents whose wards will be entering Senior High School for the first time in the next academic year to make e-zwich a part of the shopping list. "The process to acquire an e-zwich card is simple and takes a very short time, and parents can take their wards to the nearest bank to acquire one," he reiterated.

The C.E.O. of GhIPSS said the e-zwich has lots of benefits, and encouraged parents to ensure that their wards in school have the e-zwich experience. He stated that some schools already have the POS terminals on their premises, and that parents with wards in such schools can even put the school fees on the card so they don't need to carry huge sums of money on them.

Source: BFT