



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ABUJA PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WILL UPHOLD COMMONWEALTH IDEALS – ADAMU ADAMU

Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu has said that the Federal Ministry of Education will continue to promote the Commonwealth ideals, saying that Nigeria held in high esteem those ideas and principles aimed at promoting international peace, security and understanding.

The Minister stated this today, Tuesday, 07 March 2017 in Abuja while briefing the Press as part of pre-event activities to mark this year's Commonwealth Day Observance.

Malam Adamu described the theme for this year's celebration, "*A Peace building Commonwealth*," as apt and timely, saying that there is no better time for peace-building initiatives to be discussed than now; noting that the issue of peace is the collective responsibility of all actors in society, and this includes government at all levels, families and parents, communities, schools, religious bodies, corporate organisations, civil society, non-governmental organisations and international development partners.

He said that it is the need to use education to inculcate the values of peace in young people in line with Commonwealth ideals and principles, that the Federal Ministry of Education organizes annual workshops for the coordinators of Commonwealth clubs in the Federation in order to build their capacity. In this regard, the Minister noted that over 250 schools in Nigeria have already established units of Commonwealth Clubs.

Speaking further on ways the Ministry is ensuring that the initiatives of the Commonwealth are sustained, the Minister said that the priority areas of the Strategic Plan for the Nigerian Education Sector (2016 – 2019) are in line with the Commonwealth education programmes.

Also, he stated that in line with this commitment, the Ministry has fulfilled its financial commitment to the Commonwealth of Learning, covering 2014 – 2015 financial year as well as part payment for 2015 – 2016 financial year in the sum of N189,273,983.

"It should therefore be noted that from 2011 – 2016, the sum of **N749,967,120.00** has been paid to COL as annual subventions. Nigeria contributes C\$750,000 to COL annually," he said.

Commonwealth Day is observed in all member countries annually on the second Monday in March with a specific theme chosen by the Commonwealth Secretariat London, to promote the association's areas of interest and commemorate the ties that bind the body and reaffirm their faith in their shared principles and values.

To this end Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Education, will on Monday, March 13, 2017, join the rest of member nations to commemorate the day with such events as parade of the Commonwealth flags by school children; presentation of theme song composed by one of our schools; drama presentation on the theme for this year's observance; poetic rendition on the theme; amongst others.