



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR)

Press Release

THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE 62ND NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (NCE) MEETING HELD AT THE AFFICIENT EVENTS CENTRE, NASSARAWA GRA, KANO, KANO STATE, FROM THURSDAY 27TH TO FRIDAY 28TH JULY, 2017

COMMUNIQUÉ

1.0 The 62nd meeting of the National Council on Education (NCE) was held at the Afficient Events Centre, Nassarawa GRA, Kano, Kano State, from Thursday 27th to Friday 28th July, 2017. The Ministerial session was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, and supported by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony Gozie Anwukah. Other members of Council at the Ministerial session were the State Commissioners for Education and the FCT Education Secretary. The theme of the meeting was *Inclusive education; creating quality learning opportunities for all: implications for concurrency in education in Nigeria*.

2.0 The Ministerial Session was preceded by a three-day Officials' Session held from Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th July, 2017 under the chairmanship of the Director overseeing the Office the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Hussaini Adamu, represented by the Chairperson, Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE), Mrs. Magdalene Anene-Maidoh.

3.0 The Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial Session was attended by the Executive Governor, Kano State represented by the Deputy Governor and Honourable Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Kano State, Prof. Hafiz Abubakar, *MFR*, the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony Gozie Anwukah, the Emir of Kano, His Highness, Muhammadu Sanusi II, represented by the Madaki of Kano, Honourable Commissioners, the Director overseeing the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Dr. Adamu Hussaini and the Chairperson, Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE), Mrs. Magdalene Anene-Maidoh.

4.0 Delegates at the meeting included Officials from the Federal and State Ministries of Education, Higher Education, Science and Technology; the FCT Education Secretariat, Federal and State Education Parastatals and other Agencies. Others were the Nigeria Academy of Education, the Armed Forces Education Corps, Nigeria Police Education Corps, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Federal Fire Service, Nigerian Prison Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Federal Character Commission, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Federal Ministry of Science and Technology,

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN), Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Association of Proprietors of Innovation and Vocational Institutions (APIVI), National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Nigeria Association for Special Education Teachers (NASET), Association of Primary School Head Teachers of Nigeria (AOPSHON), National Association for Exceptional Children (NAEC), Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (STAN), other Professional Associations, International Development Partners, Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the Press and other stakeholders .

5.0 The welcome address was delivered by the Deputy Governor and Honourable Commissioner of Education, Science and Technology, represented by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Education Matters, Dr. Bakari Ado Hussain. The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony Gozie Anwukah made some remarks while the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, delivered the Keynote address. The opening address was delivered by the Executive Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, *OFR*, represented by the Deputy Governor and Honourable Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Kano State, Prof. Hafiz Abubakar. The Vote of Thanks was given by the Director overseeing the Office of the Permanent Secretary, FME, Dr. Adamu Hussaini.

6.0 At the ministerial technical session, Council reiterated its decision at the 61st NCE meeting of September, 2016 in Abuja, that Christian Religious Studies (CRS) and Islamic Studies (IS) be separated from Religion and National Values and handled as stand-alone subjects. Council further stated that Christian Religious Studies is a core and compulsory subject for Christian students while Islamic Studies is a core and compulsory subject for Muslim students at the basic and secondary education levels. Council regarded the controversy surrounding the matter as misdirected and unwarranted.

7.0 After extensive deliberations on the memoranda presented to the meeting and other issues on how to improve Nigeria's Education Sector,

Council:

- a. noted
 - i. the need to improve on the organization of JCCE Plenary and NCE meetings in terms of categories and number of delegates and the mode of presentation of documents, among others;
 - ii. that NERDC has commenced a nationwide impact assessment study on the implementation of the 9-Year Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) and the Senior Secondary education curriculum;
 - iii. that NERDC has completed the process of disarticulating the History content from the Social Studies curriculum;
 - iv. that NERDC has commenced preparations for separating Christian Religious Studies (CRS) and Islamic Studies (IS) from the Religion and National Values Curriculum of the revised 9-Year BEC and copies of the separated curriculum will be made available to schools in 2018;

- v. that the revised 34 Trades and Entrepreneurship curricula shall be piloted in selected schools in nine(9) states;
- vi. cancellation of the second interview test of the National Common Entrance Examination by the Federal Ministry of Education;
- vii. the existing facilities at literacy centres are not suitable for adults and do not support learning for people with special needs;
- viii. the need to start piloting the NVQs particularly in areas where National Occupational Standards have been developed and classified as well as the need for States participation in NVQs delivery for skills of the youth;
- ix. the need to retrain lecturers in all faculties/schools and departments in tertiary institutions for effective implementation of inclusive education in curriculum delivery;
- x. that adequate funding, provision of learning materials, equipment and structures are needed in Inclusive Schools;
- xi. the efficacy of Service Learning Strategy (SLS), an activity-based co-operative strategy that is mainly project based, that provides inclusiveness as well as quality learning;
- xii. that UNICEF and ESSPIN have supported most States to develop education strategic and operational plans, which they can review to include activities that will address issues of exclusion;
- xiii. the achievements and challenges of States, FCT and Parastatals in the implementation of NCE decisions;

a. urged

- i. delegates for JCCE and NCE meetings to acquire official and functional e-mail addresses for easy access to information on the meetings;
- ii. States and the FCT to ensure commitment to the implementation of ECCDE/Pre-primary education by taking advantage of the re-introduction of 5% utilization of UBE Matching Grant for ECCDE;
- iii. States and the FCT to commence Community Based Early Childhood Care (CBECC) initiative by selecting as a pilot two hard-to-reach communities in every Local Government and establish CBECC in the communities in order to give learning opportunities to all;
- iv. States and the FCT involved in the *Tsangaya* initiative to integrate the teachers in their scheme of service;
- v. SMOEs and the FCT Education Secretariat to enlighten schools and other stakeholders on the need to use the new BECE syllabus, new grading format, and introduction of offline/online platform for registration of candidates;
- vi. States and the FCT to adequately make funds available for literacy and NFE programmes/projects at all levels and carry out sensitization and mobilization in communities to enhance enrolment of all categories of learners;
- vii. States and the FCT to comply with NCE decisions with regard to the recruitment of adult education facilitators on permanent and pensionable basis before the end of 2017;
- viii. the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation to fast-track the inclusion of NVQs in the Scheme of Service.
- ix. States and FCT to ensure that all artisans and craftsmen are certified and licensed in their occupation before they can practise in line with global best practice;
- x. Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) to accept the technical teachers during training which is for a period of one month every three years;

- xi. FME, States and the FCT to prioritize TVET teacher trainees in their scholarship schemes;
- xii. States, the FCT and other stakeholders to acquire the Braille-Note Apex (or similar devices) for their institutions and train their teachers and candidates with visual impairment on its use for enhanced teaching, learning and assessment;
- xiii. FME, States, the FCT and all relevant Stakeholders to take more proactive measures in intensifying advocacy, sensitization and campaigns for the achievement of inclusive education in the country;
- xiv. FME, States and the FCT to recruit qualified teachers and sign language interpreters for the success of inclusive education;
- xv. States and the FCT to improve the award of scholarship to learners with Special Needs at Basic, Post-Basic and Tertiary education levels;
- xvi. FME, States and the FCT to ensure access and equity for children with special needs in regular school settings;
- xvii. FME, States and the FCT to embark on training and re-training of all teachers on new approaches that will guarantee academic achievements of learners with special needs in an inclusive school setting;
- xviii. FME, States and the FCT to ensure that approved textbooks and text materials are transcribed into Braille;
- xix. States and the FCT to establish at least one Gifted and Talented students' Academy in their respective States;
- xx. public tertiary institutions to include courses on inclusive education as part of their staff development for TETFund intervention;
- xxi. States, the FCT and other stakeholders to support NOUN in the provision of structures and facilities for the operation of Study Centres for effective delivery of inclusive education to all groups of learners;
- xxii. FME, States and the FCT carry out advocacy and enlightenment on the use of Service Learning Strategy (SLS) to support inclusiveness in the classroom;
- xxiii. FME, States and the FCT to adopt the strategies of inclusive education sensitive plans and budgeting process and release budgeted fund for the implementation of inclusive education;
- xxiv. States and the FCT to play their roles effectively in education delivery through adequate budgetary provision while retaining education on the concurrent legislative list;
- xxv. the Federal Government to review the modalities of the operation of the N-Power programme as many of the teachers recruited and deployed to States and the FCT are not graduates of education;
- xxvi. FME, SMOEs, UBEC, NUT, NAPPS, SUBEBs, FCT UBEB, LGEAs to be part of the TRCN advocacy and sensitization on the need for unqualified teachers to acquire teaching qualification before December, 2019;
- xxvii. all teacher employers; UBEC, SUBEBs, FCT UBEB, LGEAs, NAPPS, International Development Partners such as world Bank, JICA, USAID, DFID and CPD service providers to adopt the TRCN Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) manual in all teacher training programmes;
- xxviii. FME, States and the FCT to pay more attention to physical education and school sports by allocating fund for the implementation of the National Physical Education and School Sports Policy as well allocate space and time for school sports;
- xxix. FME, States, the FCT and private school proprietors to implement the approved and adopted mandatory capacity building for all newly appointed Managers, Administrators and Directors in the education system coordinated by NIEPA, Nigeria;
- xxx. States and FCT to create and fund functional SEMIS for timely and accurate data generation;

- a. approved
- i. that only professionals in Education of the Directorate cadre from Federal and State Ministries of Education and the FCT, their Parastatals and other relevant institutions and agencies should attend JCCE and NCE meetings;
 - ii. that each Ministry of Education from States and the FCT Education Secretariat should be represented by a maximum of five (5) delegates including the Director (PRS), representative(s) of SUBEB and the JCCE Desk officer, at the JCCE Plenary and NCE meetings;
 - iii. that each Federal Parastatal should be represented by maximum of three(3) delegates and a maximum of two(2) delegates for Institutes/Faculties of Education, Education Corps from Military and Para-military services, associations and NGOs;
 - iv. the distribution of documents for JCCE & NCE meetings should be done through email and online publication on the FME website, in order to save cost and promote efficiency;
 - v. the revised 34 Trades and Entrepreneurship curricula for piloting in selected schools from the nine(9) States of Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Katsina, Ogun, Ondo, and Oyo;
 - vi. the use of *Policy Guidelines on Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education Delivery in Nigeria* by all tiers of government and other stakeholders.
 - vii. that all skills acquired through various skills acquisition centres, be appropriately assessed and certified through the Modular Trade Certificate system by NABTEB.
 - viii. the development of the framework that will drive Public-Private-Partnership in the establishment, management and administration of Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs) as stipulated in the National Policy on Education (2013);
 - ix. that FME, States and the FCT in collaboration with Association of Proprietors of Innovation and Vocational Institutions (APIVI) should organize national advocacy for public recognition and acceptability of Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs) to improve students enrolment and retention;
 - x. the introduction of the Mandatory Staff Industrial Attachment Scheme (MSITS) for technical teachers in Technical Colleges for one month in every three (3) years
 - xi. that the Proprietors of Technical Colleges should sponsor the technical teachers for the Mandatory Staff Industrial Attachment Scheme (MSITS).
 - xii. the National Policy on Inclusive Education in Nigeria and its Guidelines for implementation by States, the FCT and stakeholders.
 - xiii. that States and the FCT should formulate and implement a scholarship scheme for learners with special needs in order to increase access to education at all levels for all.
 - xiv. the provision of assistive technologies and other resources such as Braille computers, computer games, embossers, earphones, audio meter, Braille watches, large print books, talking books, low vision devices and materials for improving access and equity in the education of children with special needs;
 - xv. the provision of special needs friendly structures such as ramps and wide toilets as well as resource rooms to accommodate all categories of learners for effective implementation of inclusive education;
 - xvi. the National Policy on Counselling and its Implementation Guidelines for adoption for Counselling activities in Nigeria.
 - xvii. the National Policy on Monitoring of Learning Achievement (MLA) and its Implementation Guidelines for adoption by education stakeholders to facilitate, institutionalize and sustain a functional MLA system.
 - xviii. that the Federal Education Quality Assurance Service (FEQAS) should drive the conduct of annual quality assurance self-assessment by all States and the FCT.

- xix. that the Honourable Minister of Education should present NCE decisions to the National Economic Council (NEC) to sensitize the State Governors and the FCT Minister on the need for provision of quality education at all levels;
- a. commended
- i. the Executive Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, *OFR*, and the people of Kano State for their support for the successful hosting of 62nd NCE meeting;
 - ii. Anambra and Edo States for the successful hosting of 2016 JCCE Reference Committees and 77th JCCE Plenary meetings respectively;
 - iii. the International Development Partners for their support and interventions in the Nigerian Education Sector;
 - iv. FME, States, the FCT and Parastatals for their achievements and enjoined them to improve on their commitment towards the implementation of NCE decisions for effective education delivery and national development;
 - v. the Honourable Commissioners for Education, the Permanent Secretaries and other delegates for their large turn-out and participation that made the 62nd NCE meeting a success.

(e) Theme for 2017 JCCE and NCE meetings

Council approved:

Funding of Education for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda as the theme for 2017 JCCE and NCE meetings.

(f) Venue for the 63rd NCE Meeting

The 63rd National Council on Education (NCE) meeting will be held in Borno State.

Adopted by Council after a motion moved by the FCT and seconded by Delta State on this day the 28th of July, 2017.