

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION IN NIGERIA HELD AT THE STATE HOUSE CONFERENCE CENTRE (OLD BANQUET HALL), ABUJA, FROM 27TH – 28TH NOVEMBER, 2018

1.0 Introduction

Education is a veritable tool for the development of any nation as well as the actualization of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), Education 2030 Agenda, and the Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan. Education is at the centre of all human development and the fulcrum upon which other activities that transit to development revolve. It is integral to eliminating social inequality and reducing poverty. Education is also the gateway to individual, national and international relevance in the 21st Century knowledge – driven economy.

Educational programmes in Nigeria have been financed over time by governments, individuals or their parents and through external aid. The participation of the government in the funding of education has been increasing since the fifties when free primary education programmes started in the former Western and Eastern Regions. Another important period in which government participation increased, started in the late seventies when Federal Government introduced free universal primary education and abolished tuition fees in universities and secondary schools. This makes the contribution of government to appreciably increase while that of the parents and individual decreased.

The placement of Education on the concurrent list of the Nigerian Constitution implies that its management and administration has to do with inter relationship and interface among the different tiers of government i.e. Federal, State and Local Governments. It is therefore imperative for education to be adequately funded so as to play the expected pivotal roles in human and national development.

It is against this premise that Mr. President directed that a workshop be organized to identify innovative ways of funding education in Nigeria.

2.0 The Workshop

A two-day stakeholders' workshop organized by the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance was held at the State House Conference Centre (Old Banquet Hall) Abuja from 27th – 28th November, 2018. The theme of the workshop was "**Sustainable Funding for Education in Nigeria**". The workshop was targeted at articulating sustainable funding for education in Nigeria for consideration by the government.

3.0 The Objectives of the Workshop:

- i. To seek ways of addressing the funding challenges at all levels in the sector with a view to repositioning education in Nigeria.
- ii. To explore innovative ways of funding education in consonance with the National Policy on Education which affirmed that Education is an expensive social service and requires adequate financial provision from all stakeholders for successful implementation of educational programmes.
- iii. To present specific, clear and workable ideas, innovations and suggestions on the best ways to fund education in Nigeria.
- iv. To draw special attention to the enormity and complexity of the nation's education funding crisis;
- v. To build a synergy between education and all other development sectors to accomplish inclusive and quality education through adequate and sustainable funding.
- vi. To re-affirm stakeholders' commitment to transformational change through education for greater impact on national development.

4.0 The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Seek ways of addressing the funding challenges at all levels in the sector with a view to repositioning education in Nigeria.
- ii. Explore specific, clear and workable ideas, innovations and suggestions on the best funding model for education in Nigeria.

5.0 Attendance

Participants were drawn from a broad spectrum of stakeholders in education including members of the Federal Executive Council, Chairmen of Education related Committees of National Assembly, State Commissioners of Education, Heads of Education Parastatals / Agencies, Retired Permanent Secretaries and Directors, Provost of Colleges of Education, Rectors of Polytechnics, Pro Chancellors/ Vice Chancellors of Universities, Chairmen of State Universal Basic Education Boards, Unions, Associations, Private Sector (NGOs and Civil Societies), International Development Partners, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence (Education Corps), Federal Ministry of Education Staff and the Media.

6.0 Presentations

The Vice President, His Excellency, Yemi Osinbajo, GCON represented by Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning, presented the keynote address and declared the workshop open. Lead papers were presented by Dr. Abdullahi B. Baffa, (Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund), Prof. Femi Bamiro (Former Vice Chancellor University of Ibadan), Jaime Saavedra Chanduvi (World Bank), Dr. Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf (National Universities Commission, NUC), Dr. Mahfouz A. Adedimeji (University of Ilorin) and Prof. Peter Okebukola (Former NUC Executive Secretary). Goodwill messages came from chairmen of Senate and House Committees on Education respectively.

6.0 Technical Session

The workshop break-out sessions had the following sub-themes:

Funding of:

1. Basic Education;
2. Secondary Education;
3. Tertiary Education;
4.
 - i. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM),
 - ii. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET),
 - iii. Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs) &
 - iv. Vocational Enterprise Institutions (VEIs); and
5. Ministerial Strategic Plan (MSP).

7.0 Observations and Challenges:

- i. Education is a human rights issue, an expensive social service that requires adequate and sustainable funding for it to drive the growth and development of the nation;
- ii. The prevailing model of funding education is behind the times, government skewed, is lacking adequate stakeholder participation and is therefore non-functional;
- iii. There is evidence of inadequate funding of education which is at the root of the challenges and crises bedeviling the provision of inclusive quality education at all levels of education;
- iv. Non-governmental organizations and parents are not properly sensitized on the need for inclusive collaborative funding of education;

- v. The wide gap between apparent and real education budgets, “the envelop” budgeting process, questionable transparency and accountability factors, collectively tend to exacerbate the crises of education funding in Nigeria;
- vi. The achievement of quality education is being threatened by funding gap that exists between explosion of educational institutions and school population and inadequate funding to address these spiral increases;
- vii. The under-performance of higher institutions and their lack of competitiveness is largely due to underfunding and lack of institution-based participatory accountability;
- viii. There is a need for a paradigm shift from government spending on education to government investing in education;
- ix. Apparent lack of recognition of the Armed Forces Education Corps as stakeholder and therefore lack of synergy between them in wholistic funding of education.

8.0 The Workshop Recommends that:

- i. Funding of Education in Nigeria can be better achieved through multi-stakeholder contributions including the parents, organized and non-formal private sectors and government with regards to the fact that education is partly public and private good, proprietors and students should proportionately share costs;
- ii. Reasonable non-tuition charges should be sustained; their harsh effects on students can be cushioned by trust fund, interest friendly student loans and scholarships for brilliant, indigent and

- students with special needs; this should be managed by the institutions.
- iii. There should be increase in education budget, (minimum of 15% of GDP);
 - iv. Education Trust / Endowment funds should be established for both basic and secondary levels of education (from alumni, diaspora, private sector, etc.)
 - v. States should introduce Basic Education Tax to facilitate basic education delivery in their respective states;
 - vi. The full implementation of the suggested 0.5% of consolidated revenue for STEM and TVET;
 - vii. Public education institutions should vigorously promote Public Private Partnership to increase their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR);
 - viii. The money needed to fund tertiary education should be sourced from governments grants, and IGR;
 - ix. Federal Ministry of Education should develop a framework for Adopt-A-School Programme that will guide wealthy Nigerians and philanthropists to support school improvement activities;
 - x. National Assembly should enact a law to commit 5% each of Ecological Fund and Sovereign Wealth Fund, and 3% of the interest generated from the National Pension Fund to the Education Sector.

The Workshop also recommends:

- xi. Innovative sources of funding such as deducting ₦5.00 from every ₦100.00 mobile phone recharge cards, cable network and social network data recharges through Nigeria Communication Commission;
- xii. Increase of FGN-CRF UBE implementation from 2% to 4% and expansion in number of companies that should contribute to this fund;
- xiii. Direct deduction of 3% as a first line charge from Federation Account to fund public education;
- xiv. Granting of autonomy to tertiary institutions with grant from government;
- xv. Increase of Education Tax to TET Fund from 2% to 3% as well as expansion of participation and improvement in collection;
- xvi. Adoption of Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) model in the education sector; and
- xvii. Promoting institutional partnership and collaboration with International Development Partners and donor organizations at all levels of education.

9.0 Way Forward / Key Actions

- i. Inter-Ministerial meeting with Federal Ministries of Finance and Budget and National Planning;
- ii. Forwarding of Council Memorandum to the Federal Executive Council (FEC)

iii. Mr. President holds strategic meeting with International Development Partners; and

iv. Presentation to National Economic Council (NEC) and Council of States.

The Federal Ministry of Education hereby expresses appreciation to the persons, institutions and organizations that have contributed to the success of the workshop.

Mallam Adamu Adamu
Hon. Minister of Education

Mrs. Zainab Ahmed
Hon. Minister of Finance