



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR)**  
**PRESS RELEASE**



**BESDA LAUNCHED IN SOKOTO, TARGETS 436,570 CHILDREN**

Minister of State for Education, Hon Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba today, 20th October, 2020 flagged off the Better Education Service Delivery For All (BESDA) program in Sokoto, targeting an Enrollment figure of 436,570 children who are currently out of school in the State. Describing the alarming figure of out-of-school children in Sokoto as a sad phenomenon, the Minister said: "I am worried that this commentary is coming out of Sokoto state."

Hon Nwajiuba however, noted that: it is gratifying to note that Sokoto state has successfully enrolled 75,000 children in schools out of the 436,570 in the build-up to the launch of BESDA in the State, noting that it is evident that the State is taking the challenge seriously.

The Minister argued that, while efforts are being made to reduce the number of out of school children to tolerable limits, more and more children are joining the queue, maintaining that until these efforts outweigh the birth rates, Govt efforts will continue to be neutralized. In his keynote address at the launch, the Executive Gov of Sokoto state, Rt Hon Aminu Tambuwal applauded the efforts of the Federal Govt in ensuring that all children across the country that are out of school are brought on board the ship of schools, stating that President Buhari will go down in history as having paid the greatest attention to out of school children.

Also commending President Buhari for the appointment of Hon Nwajiuba into the Federal Executive Council, Gov Tambuwal Said the Minister, who is a highly detribalized Nigerian, is already impacting positively on education in Nigeria and Sokoto State in particular. Enumerating the achievements of his administration in the field of education, Gov Tambuwal said his administration will leave no stone unturned in its efforts aimed at changing the narrative in the education sector in the State.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Hon Commissioner for Basic Education Alh. Muhammad Bello Abubakar Guiwa announced a donation of two coaster buses and a Hilux van to facilitate the activities of the BESDA program in the State. Goodwill messages at the occasion came from, UNICEF CHIEF of FIELD OFFICE in Sokoto, Mohameden Fall, among others. In His message, His Royal Highness, the Sultan of Sokoto, represented by the wazirin sokoto Alh. Prof Sambo Wali Junaid simply asked the people to "try ignorance if they believe that Education is expensive," maintaining that education is priceless

Signed:

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