



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, PHASE III, ABUJA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR)

Press Release



BAD BUSINESS FOR "BOYS QUARTER" DEGREES

With the inauguration of the 34th National Standing Committee, (NSC) on the evaluation of foreign qualifications, it is now clear that the Federal Government will no longer tolerate the operations of illegal satellite campuses and affiliations with foreign unaccredited universities, implying that the days of "Boys Quarter" degrees are over and for good.

Education Minister, Adamu Adamu, said, this is in line with the present administration's quest for ensuring that Nigerian students obtain foreign

qualifications that are internationally competitive, and of academic and moral excellence.

The Minister said this today in Abuja when he inaugurated the 34th meeting of the National Standing Committee, (NSC). He said the Standing Committee was constituted for the purpose of determining the Nigerian equivalent of certificates and degrees of foreign institutions.

Adamu Adamu directed the Committee to ensure that “the quality groundwork already laid for evaluation is progressively improved upon in such a manner that inspires national and international confidence”.

He expressed hope that the outcome of the Committee’s proceedings will “improve the protocol of evaluating foreign education certificates and other related issues.”

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Arch. Sonny Echono, revealed that the Standing Committee was constituted in 1974 to evaluate the Nigerian equivalent of academic diplomas and degrees obtained from Eastern European countries.

He lamented that the advent of distance learning and establishment of “numerous sub-standard tertiary institutions in the country have made the situation more complex”.

Echono also explained that government in its quest to make the evaluation process less cumbersome, has dedicated an online portal to which applicants can send their requests.

Candidates can now access the portal via www.ess.education.gov.ng

The Permanent Secretary disclosed the Ministry’s intention to improve on the portal’s functionality for optimum seamless operations.

He subsequently urged members of the Standing Committee to put in their best in ensuring that the menace of illegal foreign certificates is eradicated.

Speaking earlier, Dr. Lydia Giginna, Director Education Support Service department of the Ministry expressed hope that full compliance with the new protocol will complement the Ministry’s efforts of reducing the use of illegitimate and forged foreign degree certificates in the country.

The Terms of Reference, (ToR) for the National Standing Committee include;

- To deal with the broad principles of evaluation, finetune and improve the established criteria for the evaluation of foreign qualifications
- To decide the Nigerian equivalent of foreign educational qualifications
- To objectively consider briefs on respective foreign countries' education system presented by Desk Officers, with a view to deciding Nigerian equivalents to such country's qualifications
- To consider emerging challenges emanating from routine evaluations by Federal Ministry of Education's Desk Officers
- To serve as the appellate body to appraise representations from aggrieved individuals on emerging routine evaluation issues and;
- Carry out other assignments relevant to its mandate.



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11th November, 2020