

**THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (NCE) MEETING, HELD AT CAMPVIEW EVENT CENTRE, MILE 6, JALINGO, TARABA STATE FROM THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> TO FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

- 1.0 The 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Council on Education (NCE) was held at Campview Event Centre, Mile 6, Jalingo, Taraba State with the theme ***“Eradicating Out-of-School Children Phenomenon: A Tool for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda”***
- 2.0 At the opening ceremony were the Deputy Governor of Taraba State, His Excellency, Engr. Haruna Manu, who represented the Executive Governor of Taraba State, His Excellency Arc. Darius Dickson Ishaku, *fnia*, the Honourable Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu, ably represented by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, *OFR*, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono, *fnia*, State Commissioners for Education the Permanent Secretary of State Ministries of Education, Representative of Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jummai Adamu, Directors from Federal and State Ministries of Education, the FCT Education Secretariat, Heads of Education Parastatals and Agencies, Chairmen of SUBEBs, other critical stakeholders and the Press. A total of 385 delegates were in attendance.
- 3.0 The Ministerial Session was preceded by a three-day Officials’ Session under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono, *fnia*, from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.
- 4.0 Good will messages: the President of The Albino Foundation (TAF), the National Secretary of National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS) and the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen gave good will messages.
- 5.0 The Welcome Address was delivered by the Taraba State Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hon. Edward Baraya. This was followed by the Opening remarks by the Permanent Secretary, FME. The Keynote Address was delivered by Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba. The Opening Address by the Executive Governor of Taraba State was delivered by the Deputy Governor, His Excellency, Engr. Haruna Manu. The Vote of thanks was given by Dr. (Mrs.) O. Ufoegbune, Director, Educational Planning, Research and Development.

- 6.0 A compilation of the Major Decisions of the NCE, Volume 6, was unveiled by the Executive Governor of Taraba State ably represented by the Deputy Governor, supported by the members of the high table.
- 7.0 The Policy on *Career Path for the Teaching Profession in Nigeria* and the *Implementation Guidelines*, developed by the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria was officially launched by the Executive Governor of Taraba State ably represented by the Deputy Governor.
- 8.0 The Ministerial Session was chaired by the Honourable Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu, ably represented by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba. The Minutes and Matters Arising from the 64<sup>th</sup> NCE Meeting held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State in 2019, were unanimously adopted as presented. Three (3) Ministerial Memoranda and Memo to Council from the Officials' session were critically discussed.
- 9.0 After extensive deliberations on all the Memoranda presented to Council and other issues on how to improve Nigeria's Education Sector.

## **Council**

### **approved:**

- (i) that FME, in collaboration with SMOEs, Heads of Tertiary Institutions and Staff/Students Unions and other relevant stakeholders should organise Zonal and National advocacy programmes to improve student enrolment, retention and completion of academic programmes in tertiary institutions on time;
- (ii) that NUC, NBTE, NCCE in collaboration with SMOEs and other relevant stakeholders should monitor Open and Distance Learning (ODL);
- (iii) that NUC, NBTE, NCCE should conduct Zonal/National Advocacy on improving Open and Distance Learning (ODL) delivery, develop Action Plan/Blueprint and a Stand-alone National Policy for the implementation of ODL in Nigeria;
- (iv) that FME in collaboration with SMOEs, Heads of Tertiary Institutions, Employers of labour and other relevant stakeholders should strengthen EMIS for effective data collection and management to develop a data base on the employability of the tertiary educational graduates in Nigeria for effective National planning;
- (v) that NUC, NBTE, NCCE should conduct skills gap assessment of tertiary education graduates in Nigeria;

- (vi) that NUC, NBTE, NCCE should adopt an implementable blueprint for employability of tertiary education graduates in the labour market;
- (vii) that NUC, NBTE, NCCE should develop a stand-alone National Policy on Skills Development for employability of Tertiary Education graduates in Nigeria;
- (viii) that NUC, NBTE, NCCE should develop framework/action plan for repositioning Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs) through Public-Private partnership;
- (ix) that a memorandum be forwarded to Federal Executive Council (FEC) for executive pronouncement on the establishment of Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs);
- (x) that a bill be forwarded to National Assembly by the Federal Executive Council for passage of enabling act on IEIs;
- (xi) that technical and financial support be provided for the proprietors of Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs) in the area of infrastructural development, capacity building and National Advocacy for popularization of the institutions;
- (xii) FME, to encourage the branding of IEIs to reflect uniform nomenclature as a fourth realm of tertiary institution in Nigeria;
- (xiii) States and the FCT should provide adequate security and protection for teachers in tertiary institutions in the communities that are prone to crises;
- (xiv) FME should expedite action in the implementation of recommendations on 2014 Needs Assessment to address infrastructural decay and improve the capacity of lecturers in public Polytechnics and Colleges of Education;
- (xv) that NUC, NBTE and NCCE should document students' drop-outs from tertiary institutions and proffer an implementable Action Plan to eradicate drop out phenomenon and reintegrating drop-out students back to the school system;
- (xvi) that Federal and State Governments should implement all labour laws to stem the spate of strike and frequent disruption of the academic calendar in Nigerian tertiary institutions;
- (xvii) the establishment of ICT Department in Education in all SMOEs and SUBEBs in 36 States and the FCT for monitoring of the e-teaching and learning and other ICT interventions in Education sector;
- (xviii) that FME, States and FCT should implement the reviewed National Policy on Gender in Education and its implementation guidelines;

- (xix) Federal, States and the FCT should Strengthen partnership between Government and the private sectors for the provision of relevant infrastructure for special needs children;
- (xx) the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools in Nigeria and its Implementation Guidelines as reference documents for all Education Stakeholders;
- (xxi) the reviewed National Policy on Nigeria Education Management Information System and its Implementation Guidelines as a National working document;
- (xxii) that FME, States and the FCT to organise advocacy and sensitisation programmes on the implementation of Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) Laws and Policies across the Federation;
- (xxiii) that FME, States and the FCT to domesticate Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) Laws and Policies, appoint SSD Desk Officers and organize capacity building programmes based on the peculiarities in their domains;
- (xxiv) that FME, States and the FCT should accelerate the process of disarticulation of Junior and Senior Secondary Schools in line with the 1-6-3-3-4 National Policy on Education;
- (xxv) that FME, States and the FCT should provide adequate infrastructure and gender friendly environment through partnership with relevant stakeholders to advance gender equality in promoting Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Subjects in Senior Secondary Schools;
- (xxvi) that States and the FCT should set up Task Force to enforce sanctions on parents/guardians whose children/wards are on the streets during school hours;
- (xxvii) FME, States and the FCT to establish e-learning centres for Out-of-School Children and ensure the use of Accelerated Basic Education Curriculum (ABEC) at the centres;
- (xxviii) States, the FCT and Ministries of Water Resources should complement the effort of UBEC in funding WASH programme in all Basic Schools in Nigeria;
- (xxix) that FME, UBEC, SMOEs, Federal and State Ministries of Justice and the FCT should facilitate a stakeholders' forum to increase awareness through the use of slogan, flyers, media, in order to ensure all State governments that are yet to domesticate the Child Rights Act to do so;
- (xxx) the Anaan Language Curriculum for Basic Education;

- (xxxi) States and the FCT should extend the Homegrown School Feeding Programme to at least Middle Basic Education level;
- (xxxii) FME, States and the FCT to evolve and implement coordinated and sustainable strategic enrolment drive campaign to bring Out-of-School Children into school net as well as ensure retention and completion of Basic education;
- (xxxiii) FME, States and the FCT to make admission of learners into Basic Education open ended;
- (xxxiv) FME, States and the FCT should ensure the distribution and utilisation of the developed Basic Education Certificate Examination Syllabus to State Ministries of Education and the FCT Education Secretariat for immediate implementation;
- (xxxv) that the developed National Language Policy should be presented to the Federal Executive Council for consideration and approval, as a reference document for use in Nigeria by all stakeholders;

## 12.0 **APPRECIATION**

Council appreciated the Government and the good people of Taraba State for successfully hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> National Council on Education (NCE) meeting. Council also commended delegates for their impressive turnout and meaningful contributions towards the success of the meeting and wished them safe journey to their destinations.

## 13.0 **ADOPTION OF COMMUNIQUÉ**

This Communiqué was adopted by **Council** on this day, the ***13<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021.***