

**THE MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (NCE) MEETING, HELD ON THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022 AT THE BOLTON WHITE APARTMENT (EVENT CENTRE), WUSE ZONE 7, ABUJA, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

1.0 The 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Council on Education (NCE) was held at the Bolton White Apartment (Event Center), Wuse Zone 7, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The Ministerial Session was presided over by the Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu. The theme of the meeting was ***"Strengthening of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda"***.

Present at the opening ceremony were Distinguished Senator Robert Ajayi Boroffice, Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, *OFR*, Honourable Minister of State for Education, Rt Hon. Goodluck Nanah Opiah, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Andrew, David Adejo, State Commissioners for Education, Permanent Secretaries of State Ministries of Education, Directors from Federal and State Ministries of Education (SMoEs), the FCT Education Secretariat, Heads of Education Parastatals, Representatives of Agencies, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), other critical stakeholders and the Press. A total of 300 delegates were in attendance.

- 2.0 The Ministerial Session was preceded by a two-day Officials' Session under the Chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Andrew David Adejo, from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2022 held at the National Universities Commission.
- 3.0 The Welcome Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Goodluck, Nanah Opiah. This was followed by Goodwill messages delivered by Distinguished Senator Robert Ajayi Boroffice, the Chief of Education Section, UNICEF, Nigeria Country Office, Ms. Saadhna Panday- Soobryan, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, *OPR*, representative of the Federal Ministry of Defence, and the Acting National President, Association of Private School Owners of Nigeria, Hajia Maryam Magaji. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu. The Vote of Thanks was given by Mr. Adeleye Adeoye, Director, Educational Planning, Research and Development, Federal Ministry of Education.

The Keynote Address generated a lot of interests and discussions on the major themes of Out of School Children, teaching of sexual education in Nigerian pre-tertiary levels, poor funding of the education sector, imperative for more focus on skills development and entrepreneurship and possibility of having two ministries to handle education matters.

Some States Commissioners volunteered to forward their thoughts on some of these issues to the Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu.

4.0 After extensive deliberations on the 40 Memoranda presented to Council and other issues on how to improve Nigeria's Education Sector, 2 were dropped, 1 was to provide comparative statistics while prayers for 3 were rephrased.

## **Council**

### **noted:**

- (i) that the effect of flooding has been devastating in the country resulting in avoidable school closures;
- (ii) the need to educate schools on disaster management and control measures, as well as mitigating Climate Change;
- (iii) that the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) has completed the development of a National Reading Framework (NRF) for the basic education level;
- (iv) that the NRF provides national reading benchmarks and standards that take cognisance of the multilinguistic nature of Nigeria and the peculiar circumstances of our developmental indices;
- (v) that the fear of insurgency in schools is preventing some students from furthering their education to higher levels;

- (vi) that the Presidential directive/declaration on the World Teachers Day is not only a reawakening to this fact but also an opportunity to resuscitate the teaching profession for quality service delivery;
- (vii) the need to intensify teaching of Civic and Security Education in nomadic schools to instill discipline, good citizenship, social interaction, peaceful co-existence and security consciousness in nomadic children;
- (viii) that proper monitoring of teachers and learners during school period is essential and will improve the safety and security of learners in schools;
- (ix) that the re-introduction of class roll-calls twice a day is necessary to affirm the data of pupils in schools;
- (x) that the enforcement of the use of exeat cards during school hours by learners who require genuine permission to be out of the school premises is important;
- (xi) that Nigerian schools in security challenged areas have simply shut down and education is halted in these areas and all relevant data has been destroyed;
- (xii) that the opportunity to digitise school records will certainly turn around the future of teaching and learning in Nigerian schools as well as those particularly affected by security challenges;

- (xiii) that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be achieved when school environment is peaceful and safe;
- (xiv) the need for the rehabilitation of displaced children who are in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) centers in some states to enable them to be educated and responsible citizens to their families and the country at large;
- (xv) the need to promote peace and security through advocacy and sensitisation in nomadic schools;
- (xvi) the need to provide adequate security in nomadic schools to promote enrolment, retention, progression and completion of basic schooling of nomadic children;
- (xvii) that Arabic and Islamic schools are housing thousands of students including the vulnerable and most of these Schools are located in the rural areas and are without adequate security;
- (xviii) that many of the Arabic and Islamic Schools are not well fenced without security personnel, which gives bandits opportunity to easily attack and kidnap students and teachers residing in the school compound;
- (xix) that the increasing level of insecurity at Basic Education level and other sectors across the country is resulting to loss of live and property;
- (xx) the need to foster collaboration with development partners for the safety and security of learners and teachers in Tsangaya and Islamiyya schools;

- (xxi) that sit-at-home orders and other violent agitation in some parts of the country has hindered effective teaching and learning including closure of some centers;
- (xxii) that the existence of secret cults in some secondary schools has led to disruption of school activities, raping and killing of students thereby having far reaching implications on national development and stability;
- (xxiii) that not much can be achieved without serious commitment by government to managing security threat and safety challenges using an effective model emergency response plans;
- (xxiv) that one of the main catalysts of the numerous security challenges facing Nigeria is the problem of use of hard drugs;
- (xxv) that there is a need for concerted efforts to gather intelligence reports by community-based committee on security issues in the community, sensitise the community on school projects, make immediate report of School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV), etc;
- (xxvi) the global security challenges in the various sectors of economy especially in educational institutions demands the knowledge of the official languages of the neighboring countries for effective intelligence gathering and good neighbourliness;

(xxvii) the need for NUC, NBTE and NCCE to include the provision of perimeter fences a necessary guideline for accreditation.

**urged:**

- (i) Federal, States and the FCT to liaise with their respective Emergency Management Agencies for National Disaster Risk Management Plan;
- (ii) NUC, NBTE and NCCE to encourage tertiary institutions to put in place Disaster Risk Management Plans and mechanism to ameliorate negative effects of Climate Change;
- (iii) States and the FCT to avoid allocating land in flood-prone areas for the establishment of schools and educational facilities;
- (iv) FME, States, the FCT and Stakeholders to strengthen security system in the school community to encourage attendance in schools;
- (v) FME, States, the FCT and Stakeholders to partner with local, international donor agencies and schools to provide security gadgets and equipment in all schools;
- (vi) States, UBEC, NSSEC, TETFund to collaborate in the implementation of those aspects of the Presidential directives that directly align with their core mandates;
- (vii) FME, States and the FCT to collaborate and come up with action plan for the implementation of the Presidential directives;

- (viii) FME, States and the FCT to make Security and Safety Education a general subject in teacher training institutions;
- (ix) States and FCT to dedicate a minimum of 1% of annual education budget for the funding of EMIS;
- (x) FME, States and the FCT to place supervision and monitoring of teachers and learners as top priority as well direct school heads to effectively use the school register and exeat cards for monitoring movement of learners;
- (xi) FME, States and the FCT to budget for employment of security personnel in schools and the installation of security gadgets, equipment in schools;
- (xii) Federal, States, the FCT and relevant stakeholders to collaborate with National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) for digitisation of Nigerian schools' records;
- (xiii) FME, States, the FCT, NGOs and other stakeholders to provide gadgets that will be used to address security and safety challenges at all levels;
- (xiv) FME, States, the FCT, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure that displaced children have access to formal and/or non-formal education;
- (xv) FME, States, the FCT, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure that all schools are properly fenced to prevent intruders and all acts of vandalism;
- (xvi) States and the FCT to embark on regular advocacy and sensitisation through collaboration



- with National Orientation Agency and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria to promote peace and security in nomadic communities;
- (xvii) States and the FCT to collaborate with security agencies e.g. police, local vigilante groups etc., to provide adequate security in nomadic schools to encourage enrolment, retention, progression and completion by children of nomads;
  - (xviii) FME, States and the FCT to use all available instruments of Government to direct deployment of Retired Security Personnel to Schools to check insecurity;
  - (xix) FME, States and the FCT to install CCTV Cameras and Security Alarm bells in schools to monitor activities in and around the schools' environment to strengthen security and safety in schools;
  - (xx) States, the FCT and other stakeholders to relocate schools and Learning Centers that are vulnerable to security threat;
  - (xxi) FME, States and the FCT to sensitise the communities on the critical roles of safety and security of infrastructures shared with adult literacy centers;
  - (xxii) FME, States and the FCT to include security and safety education in the Non-Formal Education Curriculum;
  - (xxiii) FME, States and the FCT to enforce perimeter fencing policy in schools as a priority and include it in their annual action plan;

- (xxiv) FME, States and the FCT to implement the Federal Executive Council Guidelines on eradication of cultism;
- (xxv) FME, States and the FCT to embrace the use of emergency response plans in managing security threat and safety challenges in Nigerian Senior Secondary Schools;
- (xxvi) FME, States and the FCT to make provisions for periodic drug integrity test at all levels of education;
- (xxvii) conduct regular drug integrity test for all students and teachers in Public and Private Institutions at all levels of education as a criteria for admission and examination;
- (xxviii) FME, States and the FCT to monitor compliance by all public and private institutions on the conduct of regular integrity test for learners and teachers;
- (xxix) FME, States, the FCT, Ministry of Defence and relevant Paramilitary Agencies should collaborate with the Nigeria French Language Village (NFLV) to popularize the speaking of French Language among Nigerians most especially students and security personnel considering the growing need to interact with the neighbouring Francophone countries;
- (xxx) FME, States and the FCT should make budgetary provisions for engagement and training of ex-service men and vigilante groups in the provision of security and safety in Nigerian schools;

- (xxxi) FME to direct NUC and NCCE to make Security and Safety Education a general subject in teacher training institutions and ensure that NTI collaborates with security agencies to sustain capacity building of teachers with emphasis on security and safety, with all teacher training institutions;
- (xxxii) FME, States and FCT to collaborate with the military and para-military Agencies to provide the students in Tertiary Institutions and secondary schools with basic training on how to counter the incidence of insurgency, banditry and kidnapping among others;
- (xxxiii) NUC, NCCE and NBTE to encourage the use of Comprehensive Counselling Programmes to modify students behaviour for safety and security in tertiary institutions; and
- (xxxiv) FME, States and the FCT to comply with the 60<sup>th</sup> Council decision on construction and strengthening of school perimeter fence and gates against invasion and ensure the training of their security guards.

**approved:**

- (i) the draft National Reading Framework for implementation at the Basic Education Level, with the provision that statistics should be provided on learning gaps;
- (ii) immediate commencement of the digitisation of Nigerian schools' records to safeguard school data;

- (iii) the installation and regular use of threat repelling devices in schools;
- (iv) that all schools should ensure entry and exit into their structure are closely monitored by use of appropriate permits;
- (v) that all Basic and Senior Secondary schools should ensure that day students wear identity cards while in the school premises;
- (vi) FME, States and the FCT to make provision for adequate security gadgets to strengthen safety and security in schools for effective teaching and learning;
- (vii) the use of ex-service men, local vigilante, Paramilitary personnel to be sponsored by the PTA, Alumni and immediate communities to strengthen security and safety in Nigerian schools for achievement of Education 2030 Agenda;
- (viii) installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Camera and Security Alarm bells in schools to monitor activities in and around the school environment to strengthen security and safety in Basic schools for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda;
- (ix) the use of Emergency Response Plans (ERP) to manage security threat and safety challenges;
- (x) that FME, States and the FCT use the Developed Minimum Laboratory Standard and Safety Documents for Basic and Senior Secondary Schools in Nigeria;

- (xi) the teaching of Robotics, Coding and Provably Beneficial Artificial Intelligence (PBAI) in Nigerian schools either as a stand-alone or infused into relevant career subjects;
- (xii) that FME, States, the FCT, Military and relevant Paramilitary organisations, Private Sector and other stakeholders should collaborate with the Nigeria French Language Village in organising physical and online French Language proficiency programmes/courses for students, Military and Paramilitary personnel and other public servants in order to ensure border security and control as well as good neighbourliness;
- (xiii) that FME, States, the FCT and Proprietors of Private Tertiary Institutions should engage and train ex-service men and vigilante groups for the provision of security and safety in Nigerian schools;
- (xiv) NCCE, NUC and NBTE should include the provision of perimeter fencing in the guidelines for establishment of Tertiary Institutions;
- (xv) TETFund should make the provision of perimeter fencing a top priority in its intervention in Tertiary Institutions;
- (xvi) FME, States and the FCT should collaborate with Military and Para-Military Agencies in constituting Special Action Committee on how to provide emergency response training as co-curricular activities for students in Tertiary Institutions and secondary schools;

- (xvii) Establishment of Institutional Based Action Committee (IBAC) for the implementation of Comprehensive Counselling Programmes to modify students' behaviour in combating security challenges in tertiary institutions; and

**directed:**

- (i) all tertiary institutions to ensure adequate arrangements are made for security of lives and properties within their institutions;
- (ii) UBEC and NSSEC to Provide funding to NERDC for speedy introduction of Robotics coding and PBAI into school curriculum;
- (iii) NUC, NBTE and NCCE should enforce that semester examination results are made available on-line to students and parents/guardians before the commencement of the following Semester; and
- (iv) NUC, NBTE and NCCE to enforce that all tertiary institutions should make available transcripts and certificates to students not later than three months after their last papers and should not hold convocation ceremony if the certificates are not ready for collection by the graduating students.

## **5.0 Hosting Roster of the JCCE and the NCE Meetings**

Council approved the adjusted roster as:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>JCCE REFERENCE</b>	<b>JCCE PLENARY</b>	<b>NCE</b>
1.	2021	Enugu State ✓	-	-
2.	2022	-	(81 <sup>st</sup> ) Adamawa State ✓	(66 <sup>th</sup> ) Yobe State ✗
3.	2023	Benue State	(82 <sup>nd</sup> ) Abia State	(67 <sup>th</sup> ) Lagos State
4.	2024	Cross River State	(83 <sup>rd</sup> ) Ekiti State	(68 <sup>th</sup> ) Ebonyi State
5.	2025	Zamfara State	(84 <sup>th</sup> ) Delta State	(69 <sup>th</sup> ) Ondo State

## 6.0 PROPOSED THEME FOR 2023 JCCE AND NCE MEETINGS

Council approved *Addressing the Challenges of Policy Implementation: A panacea for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda* as the theme for the 2023 JCCE & NCE meetings and Lagos State to host the 67<sup>th</sup> National Council on Education (NCE) Meeting.

## 7.0 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

appreciated the Federal Ministry of Education for hosting the 66<sup>th</sup> NCE, within such a short time following the decline of Yobe State due to extenuating circumstances. 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.

## **8.0 ADOPTION OF COMMUNIQUÉ**

The Communiqué was adopted by the Council with a motion moved and seconded by delegates from Plateau and Sokoto States respectively.