

THE 67TH NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (NCE) MEETING, HELD AT THE LAGOS AIRPORT HOTEL, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE ON THURSDAY 14TH TO FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ

- 1.0 The 67th meeting of the National Council on Education (NCE) was held at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos State. The Ministerial Session was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, *OON SAN*. The theme of the meeting was ***"Addressing the Challenges of Policy Implementation: A Panacea for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda"***.

Present at the opening ceremony were the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Dr. Yusuf Tanko Sununu, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Mr. Andrew, David Adejo, OON, FFAN, State Commissioners for Education, FCT Education Secretary, Permanent Secretaries of State Ministries of Education, Directors from Federal and State Ministries of Education, 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 three hundred and fifty one (351) 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, Mr. Andrew, David Adejo, *OON, FFAN*, held from Monday 11th to Tuesday 12th December, 2023 at the Lagos Airport Hotel.
- 3.0 The Welcome Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Dr. Yusuf Tanko Sununu. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, *OON, SAN*. The opening address was delivered by the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Mr. Jamiu Alli-Balogun, Honourable Commissioner, Basic and Secondary Education, Lagos State.

4.0 Council

noted:

- (i) and commended His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic

of Nigeria and the Federal Executive Council for exempting the tertiary institutions from Integrated Personnel Pay Roll Information System (IPPIS) and reference to the Office of the Civil Service to the Federation (OHCSF) for the recruitment waiver.

- (ii) that ECCDE is the foundation of any educational system as it covers all children from 0-4 years as provided in the National Policy on Education;
- (iii) the need to recruit adequate number of qualified teachers for the implementation of ECCDE;
- (iv) the need to make adequate annual budgetary provisions for ECCDE across Federal, State and LGAs levels;
- (v) that Roadmap for the Nigerian Education Sector (2024 – 2027) has been developed with its implementation guidelines to address the challenges facing the education sector;
- (vi) that effective implementation of the Roadmap would go a long way in turning Nigeria’s Education fortune around for the better and enhance achievement of Education 2030 Agenda;
- (vii) that a draft Strategic Roadmap for Inclusive Access to Quality Higher Education in Nigeria has been developed through a Stakeholder consultation process to improve synergy and cooperation between policy designers and implementers for effective policy implementation;
- (viii) the need to recruit and deploy adequate number of qualified teachers in nomadic schools in order to meet global educational standards;
- (ix) that National Teachers Institute (NTI) offers online teacher development programmes using the Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment (MOODLE) platform;
- (x) the need for the establishment of an effective basic education delivery structure to tackle the menace of Out-of-School Children and improve literacy and numeracy skills of learners;
- (xi) the importance of institutionalising re-entry guidelines in schools especially for adolescent girls who dropped out of school for reasons of marriage/pregnancy as a strategy to implement the National Policy on Gender in Education;
- (xii) that many States are yet to access their accumulated UBEC matching grants thereby affecting implementation of policies and projects at the basic education level;

- (xiii) the need to institutionalise score cards and reward system by giving commendation letters or awards for effective policy implementation at Federal, States and the FCT;
- (xiv) the need to employ adequate number of Counsellors as specified (1:200) in the National Policy on Guidance and Counselling;
- (xv) the need to strengthen the participation of schools, including private schools, in Annual School Census and other data update activities in Nigerian schools;
- (xvi) the need to make adequate budgetary provision for education according to the UNESCO declaration of 26% allocation by the three tiers of government;
- (xvii) the need for accurate data and regular annual budget for scholarship scheme for Persons With Disabilities (PWD);
- (xviii) the need to strengthen the climate change and Environmental Education Programme (EEP) in Basic and Senior Secondary Schools curricula;
- (xix) the need for legal backing for the implementation of the 70:30 admission ratio in favour of trade subjects in Polytechnics;
- (xx) need for the implementation of 100% admission in favour of trade subjects in Technical and Vocational schools;
- (xxi) that the introduction of Entrepreneurship Education Programme into the curriculum of tertiary educational institutions is a major policy thrust to make the graduates creators of employment;
- (xxii) the achievement of SDG4 goals will be a mirage without the political will of Federal, State Governments and the FCT for sustainable implementation of policies;

urged:

- (xxiii) FME, States, the FCT and other stakeholders to set aside 2% of their annual education budget for ECCDE as well as recruit qualified ECCDE teachers;
- (xxiv) States, the FCT and other stakeholders to review their State Action Plan in line with the Roadmap for the Nigerian Education Sector (2024 – 2027);

- (xxv) States, the FCT and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to attract alternative funding for the implementation of the Roadmap for the Nigerian Education Sector(2024 – 2027);
- (xxvi) States, the FCT and other stakeholders to develop Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap for the Nigerian Education Sector (2024 – 2027);
- (xxvii) FME, States the FCT and other stakeholders to provide learner-friendly facilities and support for individuals with physical, visual and hearing impairments or any other form of disability in higher institutions;
- (xxviii) FME, States, the FCT and relevant Stakeholders to facilitate and promote the process of manpower development for effective implementation of educational policies;
- (xxix) FME, States and the FCT to stop the issuance of First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) and recognise Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) as minimum requirement for job placement;
- (xxx) FME to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to scale up the Home Grown School Feeding programme (HGSFP) to other Schools;
- (xxxii) States and the FCT to ensure that 10% of the entire basic education budgets and 5% of Basic Education budget of the Local Governments, as approved and enshrined in the NMEC Policy, are complied with.
- (xxxiii) States and the FCT to collaborate with NBTE, NMEC and SAME to certify apprenticeship programmes;
- (xxxiv) FME, States and the FCT to build capacity of teachers in institutions below tertiary on rudiments of Education Quality Assurance (EQA) processes and practices;
- (xxxv) FME, States and the FCT to put in place Counselling services at all levels of formal and non-formal education settings and ensure that professional Counsellors are not involved in teaching in the classroom;
- (xxxvi) FME, States and the FCT to explore other means of generating funds for implementing policies and programmes in the education sector;
- (xxxvii) FME, States and the FCT to embrace and approve the creation of Multi-sector Collaborative Technical Committee on Education Policy Implementation Framework;

- (xxxvii) FME, States and the FCT to employ more sign language professionals in Inclusive Schools for effective educational development of the hearing impaired in the schools;
- (xxxviii) FME, States and the FCT to fully engage community stakeholders e.g. PTA, SBMCs, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Traditional rulers etc, in the implementation of educational policies;
- (xxxix) FME, States and the FCT to ensure strict compliance with 70:30 admission ratio in favour of Technical Trades in Polytechnics;
- (xl) FME, to collaborate with States, the FCT, Office of the Head of Service of the Federation (OHCSF) and National Assembly for permanent removal of dichotomy between HND and Degree holders in career progression;
- (xli) NUC, NBTE and NCCE to ensure that tertiary institutions develop and implement sustainable action plan for the delivery of Entrepreneurship Education Programme in line with reviewed core curriculum minimum academic standard;
- (xlii) NUC, NBTE and NCCE to ensure that tertiary institutions produce a large percentage of products/commodities required in their communities by students in the Entrepreneurship Centre;
- (xliii) FME and States and the FCT to facilitate collaborations with NUC, NCC, NITDA and other IT related organisations on the provision of infrastructure that will strengthen the institutionalisation of Open and Distance Education in the tertiary institutions;
- (xliv) FME, States and the FCT to liaise with Local and International Development Partners for interventions in the provision of infrastructure and technical support for the production of quality graduates in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions;
- (xlv) FME, Parastatals, States and the FCT to intensify efforts in the implementation of NCE decisions;
- (xlvi) States and the FCT to adopt for use of the "*Blueprint against Social Vices among School Children and Youths in Nigeria*";

approved:

- (xlvii) the draft Roadmap for the Implementation of Quality Early Childhood Care Development and Education (ECCDE);
- (xlviii) the implementation of the Education for Renewed Hope: A Roadmap for the Nigerian Education Sector (2024 – 2027) by stakeholders as a means to addressing the challenges of education sector with the provision that item 7 under focus area “Quality and Standard” (page 101) – *Introduce one-year internship programme for all teacher education graduates to be undertaken by NTI* – be discountenanced;
- (xlix) that Candidates with disabilities (blind, deaf, Down Syndrome, Dyslexia Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – including prison inmates be exempted from post-UTME and their obtainable scores be adjusted to 100% while any one minimally qualified should be granted admission;
 - (I) the draft Re-entry Guidelines for girls who dropped out of school prematurely, as a result of marriage/pregnancy, as a reference document;
 - (li) the reviewed National Policy on Inclusive Education as a working document in Nigeria;
 - (lii) the reviewed National Education Quality Assurance Policy and its implementation guidelines as a working document in Nigeria;
 - (liii) that the NERDC to collaborate with Federal Ministry of Environment to develop Environmental Education programme curricula and infuse into relevant subjects to improve climate change education in Nigeria;
 - (liv) the Senior Secondary Education Policy as a reference document for Federal, States and the FCT;
 - (lv) the Federal and State Governments should seek the support of National and State Legislators to institute an enabling bill for successful implementation of ODL in Nigeria;
 - (lvi) the reviewed National policy on HIV & AIDS for the Education Sector as a National Working document in Nigeria;

directed:

- (lvii) NUC, NBTE and NCCE to liaise with Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education respectively to establish simulation laboratories; and

- (lviii) NFLV to collaborate with TRCN for the conduct of a baseline survey on the status of French teachers in schools for the purpose of planning for their professional capacity development programmes for enhanced performance.

5.0 HOSTING ROSTER FOR 2024 JCCE AND THE NCE MEETINGS

- (i) JCCE Reference Committees' meeting – Cross River State
- (ii) 83rd JCCE Plenary meeting – Yobe State
- (iii) NCE meeting – Ebonyi State

6.0 THEME FOR 2024 JCCE AND NCE MEETINGS

Council approved ***"Innovation, Digital Technology and Entrepreneurship: Tools for Educational & National Development in 21st Century"*** as the theme for the 2024 JCCE & NCE meetings and Ebonyi State to host the 68th National Council on Education (NCE) Meeting.

7.0 APPRECIATION

Council appreciated the Government and the good people of Lagos State for successfully hosting the 67th 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 various destinations.

8.0 ADOPTION OF COMMUNIQUÉ

The Communiqué was adopted by the Council with a motion moved and seconded by delegates from Kano and Cross River States respectively.