



REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION, PROF. TAHIR MAMMAN, OON. SAN, DURING THE 2024
COMMONWEALTH DAY COMMEMORATION AT THE MINISTRY'S
CONFERENCE HALL, SECOND FLOOR, PODIUM, THURSDAY, 11TH
MARCH, 2024

PROTOCOL.

2. Honourable Diplomats, Respected Members of the National Assembly, Esteemed Educators, Distinguished Teacher Administrators, worthy Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great honour and privilege that I stand before you today, as we gather to commemorate this Day being our first Commonwealth commemoration as the Honourable Minister of Education under the theme "***One Resilient Common Future: Transforming Our Common wealth***", a very apt theme that touches the peculiar challenges facing the dissemination of Education in Nigeria. The Commonwealth represents a rich diversity, of member nations spanning continents, cultures, and languages. Yet, despite the differences, member states are bound together by shared values of democracy, human rights and the pursuit of prosperity for all. This is the resilience we need to achieve through the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and SDG targets for Education.

3. **ORIGIN AND SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMONWEALTH DAY**

Commonwealth nations are countries with diverse cultures, languages, and traditions that were once part of the British Empire and now share historical ties, language, and certain political institutions. The Commonwealth was formed in 1931 with the Statute of Westminster, which recognized the autonomy of dominions within the British Empire. However, today, the Commonwealth consists of 56 member states, spanning every continent, with a combined population of around 2.4 billion people. Queen Elizabeth II was the erstwhile ceremonial head until His Majesty, King Charles III acceded the throne to become the symbolic head. Accordingly, Commonwealth Day is commemorated to promote understanding, cooperation, celebrate the shared values, history, achievements and re-affirm the commitment to democracy, human rights, and sustainable development across the member states.

4. **IMPLICATIONS OF THE 2024 THEME FOR EDUCATION**

Transforming our common wealth for education entails investing in accessible and equitable educational opportunities, promoting innovation in teaching methods and curriculum design, prioritizing teacher training and support, encouraging lifelong learning initiatives, and ensuring that resources are distributed efficiently and effectively to meet the diverse needs of learners nationwide. All these are incorporated in the Road Map for the Nigerian Education Sector (2024-2027).

5. **COLLECTIVE RESOLUTE**

As we reflect on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, we are reminded of the resilience that defines our collective journey as Commonwealth members. The past years have tested our resolve in unprecedented ways, from the global pandemic to climate change and socio-economic disparities. However, it is in times of adversity that the true strength of our Commonwealth unfolds to bloom. This was also exemplified nationwide during the Covid -19 pandemic when teachers' resilience did not allow education to halt.

6. **ADAPTATION AND INNOVATION**

Our ability to adapt, innovate, and collaborate has been paramount in overcoming these challenges. From the swift mobilization of resources for education, continuity during unavoidable lockdowns to the collective efforts to address climate change through sustainable development initiatives, and safety and Security issues in our schools, we have demonstrated that together, we are stronger.

7. **THE WAY FORWARD**

As we envision a future of shared prosperity and opportunity for all Commonwealth citizens, we must prioritize transformative action in key areas such as education, healthcare, and economic empowerment. Education stands at the heart of our collective aspirations for a better future. It is the foundation of empowerment, drives social mobility, promotes innovation and nurtures the leaders of tomorrow. Therefore, investing in quality education for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic background, must remain a top priority for all Commonwealth nations.

i. Furthermore, as we navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world, we must embrace the principles of sustainability and inclusivity in Education and all other aspects of our development agenda. This entails promoting green technologies, empowering marginalized communities, and fostering partnerships that leave no one behind.

ii. In the Education sector, we must recommit ourselves to the ideals of the Commonwealth – unity in diversity, and shared prosperity. Together, we have the power to shape a future where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our common wealth.

8. **CONCLUSION**

While commemorating Commonwealth, we must not forget that Education is a Common wealth that benefits the entire society for the collective well-being and future prosperity of our nation and other Commonwealth countries.

9. Thank you.