

THE 2025 EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (NCE), HELD AT THE EXCLUSIVE SERENE HOTEL & SUITES, WUYE, ABUJA, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT), ON THURSDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2025.

COMMUNIQUÉ

1.0 The Extra-Ordinary meeting of the National Council on Education (NCE) was held at the Exclusive Serene Hotel & Suites, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, on Thursday, 6th February 2025. The meeting was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education and presided over by the Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Sa'id Ahmed, the Deputy Governor of Kano State, Comrade Aminu Abdsalam Gwarzo, Commissioners of Education, the FCT Education Secretary, Permanent Secretaries from State Ministries of Education, Directors, Heads of Education Parastatals, Development Partners, other critical stakeholders and the Press. A total of 215 delegates were in attendance.

2.0 The Welcome Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Sa'id Ahmed. This was followed by a Goodwill Message delivered by the Deputy Governor of Kano State, Comrade Aminu Abdsalam Gwarzo. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, the Closing Remarks was given by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, mni, NPOM, FWACP represented by the Director (Polytechnic & Allied Institutions, Dr. Alex Ejeh while a Vote of Thanks was given by the Honourable Commissioner of Education and Human Capital Development and Chairman, Council of Commissioners, Hajia Modibo Kawu Sa'Adatu.

3.0 After extensive deliberations, five (5) Memoranda presented to Council and other critical issues on how to improve Nigeria's Education Sector were approved.

Council:

Noted:

- (i) the need to amend the UBE Act to accommodate new funding mechanism in which schools will be directly funded;
- (ii) the need to revisit the national policy on the use of mother tongue or language of immediate community as a medium of instruction in primary schools;
- (iii) that subsuming secondary education into basic education to span 12 years is a necessary step towards creating a more inclusive, equitable, and globally competitive system;
- (iv) that extending basic education to 12 years will ensure a standardised curriculum and early exposure to vocational and entrepreneurial skills that will prepare students for both higher education and employment;

- (v) that 12 years compulsory Basic Education reform will reduce dropout rates by eliminating financial and systemic barriers that currently prevent students from completing secondary education;
- (vi) that bullying in our educational institutions is at an alarming rate and constitutes a serious challenge to quality education provision for citizens;
- (vii) that the Federal Ministry of Education has developed a draft National Policy on Anti-Bullying in Nigerian Schools to address the menace;
- (viii) that the Policy on Anti-Bullying in Nigerian Schools shall apply in all educational institutions including the Non-Formal Education sub-sector;
- (ix) that mainstreaming Almajiri education will help Almajiri students thrive and break cycles of poverty;
- (x) the crucial importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for national development;
- (xi) the rationale, key issues, implementation strategies and opportunities for transitioning FSTCs to FTCs;

urged:

- (xii) States and FCT to provide offices for the National Almajiri and Out Of School Commission to facilitate their operations;
- (xiii) States and FCT to adopt the National Policy on Anti-bullying in Nigerian schools and its Implementation Guidelines;
- (xiv) FME, States and FCT to put in place appropriate measures to ensure immediate implementation of the National Policy on anti-bullying in Nigerian schools;
- (xv) States and FCT to prioritise and provide adequate and prompt release of funding and resources to support the transition from FSTCs to FTCs;
- (xvi) States and FCT to also ensure that their Technical Colleges are adequately equipped as mandated by the Federal Ministry of Education through the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE);
- (xvii) Federal, States and the FCT to provide the necessary resources, including funding, infrastructure and personnel for the success of the transition programme;
- (xviii) FME, States, the FCT, relevant MDAs and other stakeholders to revitalise existing VEIs and STCs;
- (xix) FME, States, the FCT, relevant MDAs and other stakeholders to engage more industry partners in the revitalisation process;
- (xx) FME, States, the FCT, relevant MDAs and other stakeholders to establish more VEIs and STCs;

directed:

- (xxi) FME and relevant agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan for the transitioning of FSTCs to FTCs;
- (xxii) FME to establish a transition committee to guide and oversee the implementation of the transition policy from FSTCs to FTCs;

approved:

- (xxiii) that UBE funding should be increased to 5% to support 12 years of compulsory basic education with 1% for ECCDE;
- (xxiv) that FME should, through wider stakeholders' engagement commence the process of developing framework for the implementation of 12 years compulsory basic education programme;
- (xxv) that FME should commence the process of reviewing the national policy on the use of mother tongue or language of immediate community as a medium of instruction in primary schools;
- (xxvi) the incorporation of the 16 years minimum admission age policy to Tertiary Institutions into the National Policy on Education in Nigeria;
- (xxvii) the development of a National policy for Almajiri education in Nigeria;
- (xxviii) the draft National Policy on Anti-Bullying in Nigerian Schools for implementation;
- (xxix) the draft Policy Framework for transitioning FSTCs to FTCs in Nigeria to serve as a working and reference document for Federal, States, the FCT and other relevant stakeholders;
- (xxx) the comprehensive revitalisation programme for VEIs and STCs including integration with reviewed NSQF, infrastructure and equipment upgrade;
- (xxxi) the establishment of a committee to oversee the revitalisation programme;
- (xxxii) FME and relevant agencies to conduct monitoring and evaluation exercise of the revitalisation process;
- (xxxiii) the management and supervision of FTCs to be handled by Technology and Science Education Department of the Federal Ministry of Education;

4.0 Adoption of Communiqué

The Communiqué was adopted by the Council by a motion moved by Osun State and seconded by Delta State on this day, the 6th February, 2025.