

## UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (UBEC)

### COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING OF UBEC MANAGEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE CHAIRMEN OF STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARDS (SUBEBs) HELD FROM 13TH – 16TH NOVEMBER, 2011 AT THE TARABA STATE HOTELS LTD (ANNEX), JALINGO, TARABA STATE

#### **Preamble**

The fourth quarterly Meeting of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Management with Executive Chairmen of SUBEBs was held from 13th to 16th November, 2011 at the Taraba State Hotels Ltd Annex, Jalingo, Taraba State.

This Meeting reviewed the activities of the past quarters; charted the way forward in the implementation of the UBE Programme; proffered solutions to challenges in UBE implementation from States; undertook joint advocacy visits to project sites in the host State, Taraba; provided an opportunity for some Education Service Providers to showcase their services to the major stakeholders; and transacted other businesses that have relevance to Basic education delivery in Nigeria.

In attendance at the opening ceremony were the Executive Governor of Taraba State, His Excellency, Pharmacist Danbaba Danfulani Suntai; Hon. Yakubu Agbaizo, the State Commissioner for Education; Executive Secretary of UBEC, Dr Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed; Deputy Executive Secretary (Services) Prof. Rashid Aderinoye; UBEC Management; National Coordinator, FTS; National Coordinator, *Almajiri* Education Programme in Nigeria; Executive Chairmen of

SUBEBs from 33 States and the FCT; UBEC Zonal Coordinators; other UBEC Officers and the Press.

## **Observations**

The Meeting observed that:

- i. some States had not carried out State-level training on Unified National Continuous Assessment Programme (UNCAP) in spite of the fact that it is an important policy in education;
- ii. Early Childhood Care Development (ECD) is not being given the priority attention it deserves in basic education delivery;
- iii. there is an acute shortage of teachers in the core science subjects in JSS;
- iv. copies of the nine-year basic education curriculum were inadequate in schools throughout the country;
- v. supervision and monitoring of schools in most States have not been given the required attention;
- vi. many SUBEBs are not being represented in national meetings such as JCCE Reference Committees, pre-JETS workshops, etc;
- vii. there is indiscriminate erection of telecommunication masts in many school premises nationwide. This is condemnable;
- viii. Guidance and Counseling services are not readily available in most primary schools nationwide;
- ix. contracts have been awarded for the provision of fifty-nine *almajiri* schools in eighteen States of the federation, in the first phase;

The Meeting also noted the:

- i. significant improvement in accessing the UBE Matching Grant by States since the domiciliation of funds in commercial banks;

- ii. on-going efforts of UBEC to build the capacity of SUBEB Officers to prepare appropriate and acceptable Action Plans in a timely manner;
- iii. efforts of UBEC in building the capacity of the School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs), in collaboration with ESSPIN;
- iv. efforts of Taraba State Government in Whole-School Development (WSD);
- v. distribution of Community Accountability and Transparency Initiative (CATI) materials to States;
- vi. data generated from the 2010 National Personnel Audit;
- vii. shortage of Science Kits in Junior Secondary Schools;
- viii. distribution of *Minimum Standards* document to major stakeholders in basic education;
- ix. presentations by the Basic Education Service Providers;
- x. efforts of UBEC, in compliance with the directives of the Honourable Minister of State for Education, to disburse Self-Help Funds for two years (2010 and 2011) in 2011, and the engagement of Independent Monitors in the implementation of Self-Help projects;
- xi. importance of Federal Teachers' Scheme (FTS) in bridging the gap of inadequate supply of qualified teachers in some States and the upward review of the allowance of FTS participants from N10,000 to N18,000 with effect from January 2012;
- xii. approval by the Honourable Minister of State for Education for a study on the availability of ICT materials for e-learning in the basic education institutions in the country;
- xiii. inability of some States to conduct training under the 2011 Teacher Professional Development (TPD) Programme.

Following from the above observations, the Meeting urged SUBEBs to:

- i. attend and participate in all National educational meetings, e.g. JCCE Reference Committees, etc;
- ii. provide the list of Private Providers of Special Education for support using the 2011 funds;
- iii. list all UBE interventions, indicating the locations of the projects, the deliverables and amounts involved for the purpose of Community Accountability and Transparency Initiative (CATI);
- iv. resist the indiscriminate erection of telecommunication masts in school premises;
- v. procure additional Science Kits for the Junior Secondary Schools;
- vi. nominate and sponsor their Officers to attend the Capacity Building Workshops on Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Management, Funds Management, etc, being organized by UBEC, in partnership with National Planning Commission and TETFUND;
- vii. adopt the Whole-School Development system of infrastructural development, as best practice;
- viii. update their school data for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 and submit same to UBEC without any delay;
- ix. be prepared for the Resource Persons that will be visiting their States for the study on the availability of ICT materials for e-learning in the following weeks;
- x. be proactive in the distribution and utilization of instructional materials. They should also ensure timely distribution of these materials;
- xi. accelerate the utilization of funds for the provision of services to children with special needs;

- xii. take the establishment of ECD in primary schools seriously since it has become part and parcel of our education system.
- xiii. conduct the TPD training and forward their reports to UBEC.

## **Resolutions**

The Meeting then resolved that:

- i. school authorities should not be involved in the collection of any form of levy, and pupils should not be sent home or molested, as a result of the inability of their parents to pay;
- ii. textbooks supplied to States should be distributed, immediately on receipt, for their effective utilization by pupils;
- iii. allocation of FTS participants to States should be done according to the need of each State;
- iv. SUBEB Chairmen should regularly brief their Executive Governors on all matters relating to the utilization of Intervention Funds;
- v. Zonal Coordinators should regularly interact with SUBEB Chairmen before presenting their reports;
- vi. all efforts should be made to ensure that no additional telecommunication mast is erected in the premises of any basic education institution in Nigeria and there should be a drastic reduction in the number already erected;
- vii. SUBEBs should endeavor to sponsor their officials to all national educational meetings and make their impact felt accordingly;
- viii. all SUBEBs should set in motion the process of reducing the current high incidence of unqualified teachers in the basic education sub-sector;

- ix. all SUBEBs should ensure the availability of adequate number of the 9-year basic education curriculum in all primary and junior secondary schools in Nigeria;
- x. States should desist from issuing multiple attestation letters to different publishers for the same subject.