

UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (UBEC)

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COMMUNIQUE OF YEAR 2011 SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING OF UBEC MANAGEMENT WITH EXECUTIVE CHAIRMEN OF STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARDS (SUBEBs) HELD FROM 11TH TO 14TH JULY, 2011 AT THE ROYAL CHOICE INN, MAKURDI, BENUE STATE

1. The 2011 second quarterly meeting of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Management with Executive Chairmen of State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) was held from 11th to 14th July, 2011, at the Royal Choice Inn, Makurdi, Benue State.
2. In attendance at the opening ceremony were the Executive Governor, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Torwua Suswam; the Deputy Governor, Chief Steven Lawani; Chief of Staff to the Governor; the Executive Secretary of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Dr. Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed; the Deputy Executive Secretaries (Technical and Services); UBEC Directors; FTS National Coordinator; the Executive Chairmen of State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) from the 36 States and the FCT, and UBEC Zonal Coordinators.
3. The meeting was preceded by visits to 3 school project sites, two of which, namely, LGEA Primary School Ortaverin Guma LGEA and LGEA Primary School Wurukum, were financed by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Benue State, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Torwua Suswam using his personal resources, to serve as an example for others to emulate. Two other schools visited were LGEA Ge-Mbagwu Primary School, Ushongo LGA and LGEA Primary School, Ihungwa-Nor in Gboko Local Government Area. In each of the two schools, UBEC donated 50th Independent Anniversary Kits to the pupils while the Executive Secretary commissioned a block of 3 classrooms for JSS in Ihungwa-Nor. A courtesy call on the Executive Governor was also undertaken by the UBEC Management, SUBEB Executive Chairmen and UBEC Zonal Coordinators. Similarly, the delegates visited the Chairman

of Benue State Traditional Council, Orchivirigh Dr. Alfred Akawe Torkula, Tor Tiv IV.

4. On behalf of all participants, the Executive Secretary of UBEC, Dr. Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed appreciated the warm reception and hospitality of the Government and people of Benue State. He stated that the good examples of Benue State would be emulated by other States and pledged the cooperation of the UBEC Management in the implementation of the UBE Programme nationwide.
5. The Acting Chairman, Benue SUBEB, Hon. (Dr) David Tsevende delivered an address during the opening ceremony. Highlights of his address included:
 - The UBE Programme currently provides free basic education to over two million children in Benue State.
 - The State has been focusing on the welfare of teachers and the provision of an environment that is conducive to the delivery of basic education.
 - The disarticulation of JSS is at variance with the UBE Act (2004) and State UBE Laws.
6. The Executive Secretary, in his speech, reflected upon the presentations by all the Directors and the highlights were as follows:
 - The Federal allocation of UBE Matching Grants due to each State and the FCT for 2011 is N872,527,306.70.
 - Un-accessed UBE Matching Grants fund stood at N34,152 Billion to date.
 - States to maintain good record-keeping practices and ensure timely submission of data to UBEC.
 - The capacity building for teachers and education Managers for 2010 has been successfully completed.
 - More attention needs to be accorded to Community Accountability and Transparency Initiative (CATI) as a feedback mechanism for projects executed through FGN-UBE Intervention Fund.
7. The Executive Governor welcomed all to Benue and reiterated the foundation role of basic education as the pivot for sustainable

development and growth. He added that basic education drives other levels of education and facets of life.

He commended the Federal Government for the UBE Programme and promised to access the backlog of the un-accessed Benue State FGN-UBE Intervention Funds; and he declared the meeting open on 12th July 2011.

8. The meeting discussed a wide range of issues on basic education implementation beginning with the ***Almajiri*** Education, presentations by service providers, report on project monitoring by Design and Planning Consultants, reports by UBEC Directors and Zonal Coordinators on their activities.

9. **Recommendations**

After an exhaustive discussion of issues raised during the meeting, the following decisions were arrived at:

- i. States should be encouraged to comply with necessary financial guidelines and the maintenance of financial records in the management of the FGN-UBE Intervention Fund.
- ii. On the issue of disarticulation, the meeting agreed that it should be left to the Federal Ministry of Education to issue the implementation circular. Otherwise, the ***status quo ante*** should be maintained.
- iii. States are required to pay a corresponding amount of the 2011 FGN-UBE Intervention Fund Matching Grants Allocation in order to access the fund.
- iv. States that have arrears of un-accessed funds should endeavour to access these with dispatch.
- v. In order to determine measurable outcomes, States are encouraged to gather and report reliable data to UBEC.
- vi. In compliance with global trend in quality assurance and to enhance effective teaching-learning outcomes, there should be a paradigm shift from the traditional routine monitoring and evaluation to quality assurance.
- vii. Fifteen States, selected for the pilot of S.M.I.L.E. project, should partner with the team for successful project implementation.

- viii. States that are interested in the St. Michael's ECCDE books, presented during the meeting, should write to the Commission for procurement purposes.
 - ix. Premium should be placed on the development of the ECCDE in UBE Programme.
 - x. The presentation by New Edition Books was noted and States were urged to source for funds and procure accordingly.
10. In conclusion, the UBEC wishes to appreciate the Benue State Government and the Universal Basic Education Board for successfully hosting the second quarterly meeting in 2011. The date and venue of the next meeting will be communicated in due course.

Dr Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed
Executive Secretary (UBEC)