

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A TWO DAY
INAUGURATION/RETREAT FOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNING
COUNCILS OF FEDERAL COLLEGES OF EDUCATION HELD FROM
25TH TO 26TH MAY, 2017 AT THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, ABUJA**

1.0 PREAMBLE

The Federal Government of Nigeria under the leadership of Mr. President, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR reconstituted the Governing Councils of the Federal Colleges of Education with the mindset of the anti-corruption agenda of the Federal Government. In view of the need to ensure compliance in the implementation of Government policies in the Educational sector and to move Teacher Education in Nigeria forward, the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with the National Commission for Colleges of Education organized the two-day retreat for the Chairmen and Members of the newly inaugurated Governing Councils of the Federal Colleges of Education.

The retreat covered aspects of roles of Governing Councils in the administration of Colleges of Education in Nigeria, the implementation, challenges, and prospects of Federal Character principles in Colleges of Education. Ethics and enforcement of the extant rules for accountability in Colleges of Education, Procurement processes as enshrined in the Public Procurement Act 2007 as well as Budgeting and budget implementation process in Colleges of Education.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

The retreat was attended by the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony G. Anwukah, Chairman Senate and Chairman House Committees on Tertiary Institutions and tetFUND, Ag. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Hussaini Adamu, Executive Secretary, NCCE, Prof. Bappa-Aliyu Muhammadu, and Executive Secretaries of NUC, NBTE, tetFUND, Registrars of JAMB and TRCN, Chairmen and Members of the Governing Councils, Provosts and other Principal Officers of the 21 Federal Colleges of Education, Directors, Union Leaders, and the general public.

3.0 OBSERVATIONS

The exposition was highly interactive and exhaustively deliberated upon. At the end of the retreat, the participants observed and noted the following:

- i. The imperative of Teacher Education for National Development and the need for the Sector to be made to attract the best brains.
- ii. The Malaysian Educational Model is in line with Global Best Practice worthy of emulation and needs to be adopted and adapted for the benefit of Nigerian Educational system.
- iii. The need for the Governing Councils and the Management to work harmoniously for the progress of the Teacher Education
- iv. The Governing Councils and the College Managements were enjoined to work towards the elimination of corruption in the governance and management of the institutions.

- v. The Honourable Minister admonished Members of the Governing Council against interference in the day-to-day running of the Colleges.
- vi. The current regime of shortfall in the Colleges due to paucity of funds was highlighted and Governing Councils were admonished to help manage the situation.
- vii. The adherence to the provisions of the Procurement Act 2007 will ensure value for available resources and right Quantity and quality of goods, works and services at the right price for the benefit of institutions and the Nation.
- viii. The need to key into the principles of Federal Character in the course of employments in the Federal Colleges to promote unity in diversity.
- ix. Adherence to budgetary practices and processes would enhance planning and prudence of institutional resources for optimal growth and development in our Colleges.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS

Consequently, the retreat resolves as follows:

- i. The Governing Councils should adhere to their statutorily assigned roles for efficiency and effectiveness of the system.
- ii. Implore members of the Governing Councils to adhere to the principles of Federal Character in the appointment of staff in the national interest

- iii. Governing Council members were enjoined to collaborate with the Federal Government to provide bailout funds to the Colleges and address the shortfall and other challenges.
- iv. Engage the National Assembly to make legislations that will ensure that best brains are attracted to the sector.
- v. The provisions of the Procurement Act should be strictly adhered to, for best value to our institutions in the acquisition of goods, works and services in view of limited resources and equally to avoid litigations.
- vi. Implore the College Governing Councils to maintain the culture of transparency in staff recruitment.
- vii. Urged the Governing Councils to promote the culture of good budgeting practices and process in the Colleges.

The Communique was read and adopted upon a motion moved by Dr. LawanBukarAlhaji, Chairman, Governing Council, Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu and seconded by Hon. IheanachoObioma JU

Signed

Dr. Sam Ugwuoti,
Chairman, Communique
Drafting Committee

Prof. Bappa-Aliyu Muhammadu
Executive Secretary, NCCE