

**Opening Remark by the Honourable Minister of Education,
Malam Adamu Adamu at the Public Presentation and
Distribution of the New History Curriculum and Teacher's
Guide for Basic Education held at the National Commission
for Colleges of Education (NCCE) Conference Hall, Abuja**

27th March, 2018

PROTOCOL

- Your Excellency, the Senate President;
- Right Honourable Speaker, House of Representatives;
- The Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony Anwukah;
- Chairman, Senate Committee on Basic and Secondary Education;
- Chairman House Committee on Basic Education and Services;
- Honorable Commissioners of Education here present;
- Education Secretary, FCT;
- The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education;
- Heads of Parastatals of the Federal Ministry of Education and other Ministries here present;
- Directors of the Federal Ministry of Education;
- Directors of NERDC;
- Representatives of the Historical Society of Nigeria;
- Gentlemen of the Press;
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be here at this occasion of the public presentation and distribution of the new History Curriculum and its accompanying Teacher's Guide. This gathering is an epoch making

event. It is a symbol as well as an outcome of the resolve by the Federal administration to rekindle our nationalism, nationhood and glory. Education is the most veritable platform for transmitting values. However, the knowledge of history provides the transparencies through which these values are projected, objectified and demonstrated by human society.

The importance of History to nation building, national identity, patriotism and overall human development cannot be over emphasized. One of the cardinal focal areas by the present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari is social and behavioural change, and History is key to its realization. This desire and the national clamour informed our decision to reintroduce the teaching of History in Nigeria's Primary and Junior Secondary schools. There is no doubt that the Government is committed to introducing positive changes in education in a way that will enhance the socio-economic development of Nigeria. The re-introduction of History into the school curricula has been a major concern to stakeholders in the recent times.

As you are no doubt aware, the Federal Ministry of Education in 2016 developed its plan on: Education for Change: A Ministerial

Strategic Plan (2016-2019), which contained several initiatives and activities to be executed, including the the reintroduction of the teaching of History in Primary and Junior Secondary Schools. This initiative was approved by the National Council on Education during its 61st Ministerial Session of 27th to 30th September, 2016.

Following this, the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) was directed to carry out the disarticulation of history from Social Studies Curriculum. The above development represents a fundamental shift in policy, which demonstrates the conviction of the current administration on the importance of History as a tool for nation building and national development. In order to achieve the disarticulation of the History Curriculum, NERDC assembled a team of experts and other stakeholders to produce this document. The developed curriculum was approved by the 62nd meeting of the National Council on Education held in Kano from 24th to 28th of July, 2017. I am glad to inform this gathering that it has happened during our time and to the glory of all Nigerians.

Let me congratulate the management of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) for swiftly bringing the project to its logical conclusion. I also congratulate the Historical Society of Nigeria (H.S.N.) and other well-meaning Nigerians who consistently showed interest in the re-introduction of History into the Basic Education level.

The new History Curriculum was designed to expose students to a body of knowledge that would enable them appreciate History as an instrument of national integration and nation-building in the 21st century and beyond, thereby enabling them to appreciate the basis of the unity of Nigeria. The focus of the curriculum is on various aspects of Nigerian history, with emphasis on the bonds of unity across time and space in the country. Apart from the major themes, the study of heroes and heroines in Nigeria over the ages has also been given prominence. The essence is to provide credible role models for younger generation of Nigerians.

The new History Curriculum will imbue younger generations of Nigerians with the knowledge of the past and how this past relates to the present. It will also enable them to appreciate the basis of the unity of Nigeria. In addition, such a deep historical knowledge will

empower them to understand the forces that shape the affairs of the world and their critical place in it. In this regard, the Nigerian children will be better prepared for the task of nation-building.

With a deep sense of commitment and responsibility, I am delighted to present this curriculum and the Teacher's Guide to all Nigerians for the education of our children. Aside the copies of the newly developed History Curriculum and Teacher's Guide for Primary and Junior Secondary Schools that are presented and distributed at this venue, I am reliably informed that copies have been distributed to all the states nation-wide for immediate and effective implementation.

Thank you for your patience and attention.

Malam Adamu Adamu
Honourable Minister of Education
Federal Republic of Nigeria