

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

The Nigerian Education Research and Development Council on the 27th of March 2018, Launched the disarticulation of History from Social Studies thereby making history a subject on its own; this subject which will be delivered at the basic and junior secondary levels underwent a rigorous but much needed process to ensure that both the learner and the teacher understands the essence of history in our society.

The event which took place at the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) conference hall in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, Nigeria; had a lot of stakeholders in education attending. The Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu said that the importance of history to nation building, national identity, patriotism and overall human development could not be overemphasised. According to him, one of the cardinal principles of the present administration is social and behavioural change, and history is key to its realisation.

“The desire to realise this and national clamour for it to be back informed our decision to reintroduce the teaching of history in Nigeria’s primary and junior secondary schools. “ The Federal Ministry of Education developed its strategic plan – Education for Change: A ministerial strategic plan (2016-2019) which contained several initiatives. “This initiative was approved by the National Council on Education during its 61st ministerial session in September 2016.’ The minister added that following this development, the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) was directed to carry out the disarticulation of history from social studies curriculum.

He said 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. He, however, was optimistic that the curriculum would equip the younger generations of Nigerians with the knowledge of the past and how the past relate to the present.

In his remarks, the Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony Anwukah, said a nation without history was a nation without a better future as it could not understand nor address the present situations. He said in order to move the nation forward and make it play its catalyst role as instrument for human and national development; there was need for the reintroduction of history in schools.