

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NERDC,
PROF. ISMAIL JUNAIDU 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**

March, 2018

PROTOCOL

- Your Excellency the Senate President;
- Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- The Honorable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu;
- 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;
- Honourable Commissioners of Education here present;
- Education Secretary, FCT, Abuja;
- The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education;
- Heads of Parastatals of the Federal Ministry of Education and other Ministries here present;
- Executive Chairmen/Directors, State Basic Education Boards;
- 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 is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome you all to this occasion of the public presentation and distribution of History Curriculum and Teacher's Guide for Primary and Junior Secondary Education in Nigeria. It is indeed my honour and privilege to most respectfully acknowledge the presence of His Excellency, the Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki, we are equally blessed by the presence of the Speaker of the House of Representative, Right Honourable Yakubu Dogara. I am particularly grateful to the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu for his continuous support and graciously accepting to be our special Guest of Honour to carry out the official presentation and distribution of the new History Curriculum and Teacher's Guide for Basic Education. The Honourable Minister has shown uncommon interest and commitment to the reintroduction of History as a stand-alone subject on the Basic Education curriculum to be taught at primary and junior secondary school levels. This is in furtherance of his commitment to entrench educational initiatives that are geared towards moving the nation on the path of development. I would also want to seize this opportunity to most humbly appreciate the Honourable Minister of State for Education,

Prof. Anthony Anwukah. Thank you for your distinguished presence at this occasion. I also welcome with warm greetings the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic and Secondary Education and the Honourable Chairman of the House Committee on Basic Education and Services. I also warmly welcome the Honourable Commissioners of Education from the various states of the Federation and the Secretary of Education FCT, for their interest in this project and for their support for its actualization.

It should be recalled that the drive for the reintroduction of History as a stand-alone subject at the Basic Education Level was necessitated by the demand and concern expressed by various stakeholders, including the Historical Society of Nigeria, the Presidency, the National Assembly, the Federal Ministry of Education as well as other concerned Nigerians. Recall also that the National Council on Education (NCE) at its 61st Ministerial Session of 27th-30th September, 2016 specifically directed the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to disarticulate History from Social Studies Curriculum for Basic Education. The disarticulation was carried out and the stand-alone

History curriculum for Basic Education was approved by the National Council on Education at its 62nd meeting of 24th to 28th July, 2017 held in Kano. The result is what we are presenting and celebrating today.

The new History Curriculum is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- expose students to a body of knowledge that will enable them to appreciate History as an instrument of national integration and nation-building in the 21st century;
- deepen the positive understanding of our traditional values and identities as well as the similarities and differences between the various Nigerian peoples as basis for appreciating our unity in diversity, and
- promote the study of Nigerian and African History as a requisite for better understanding and appreciation of the challenges of globalisation.

The new curriculum is divided into three levels: Primary 1-3 (Lower Basic); Primary 4-6 (Middle Basic) and JSS 1-3 (Upper Basic).

The concepts and knowledge about History are encapsulated in the curriculum under the following themes:

- Concept of History
- Origins and Peopling
- Heroes and Heroines in Nigeria
- Political Developments in Nigeria
- Geography and Environment
- Economics, Trade and Commerce
- Culture and Customs
- External Contacts

The contents under the various themes focus on the meaning and nature of History, origins of History; migrations and settlement patterns of the peoples of Nigeria; local heroes and heroines; local political developments; the Nigerian geography and environment; major historical sites and civilisation centres; economic activities; centralised and non-centralised polities. The contents also cover patterns of inter-group relations between the peoples of Nigeria and British colonisation of the Nigerian territories. The objective is to provide learners with the basic knowledge of their local, national and African History in the ecology and different spheres.

It is the hope of NERDC that the meticulous adherence to the curriculum and effective implementation of its contents and suggested delivery methods, will inculcate in the learners, a sense of patriotism, derived from an enduring sense of Nigerian history.

Indeed, to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the History Curriculum, and its effective implementation, a Teacher's Guide was developed as a relevant teaching resource. The development of the Teacher's Guide represents a major improvement in the preparation for effective delivery of the Curriculum contents by teachers. The Teachers Guide addresses subject specific issues that are pertinent to quality education delivery such as syllabus development, scheme of work, lesson plans, teaching difficult concepts, resources for teaching, classroom management and assessment of learning. I am convinced that a thorough comprehension of the issues covered in this Teachers' Guide will certainly enhance the quality of the teachers' ability to effectively impart the historical knowledge as prescribed in the curriculum.

There is no doubt that History as a subject will be of immense benefit to the life of our nation. The positive lessons of History are

the concordant tunes of national consciousness, unity and development. The Federal Government of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Education, National Council on Education, agitating key national figures and critical stakeholders must be commended and congratulated for their initiatives.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) towards the realisation of this project. I am also very grateful to the Federal Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development Goals (FME-SDGs), Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP/SDGs) for sponsoring this project. I commend our Resource Persons and NERDC staff for their contributions to the smooth completion of this project.

Once again, thank you for coming to witness this event. I wish you all journey mercies back to you various destinations.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you.

Prof. Ismail Junaidu
Executive Secretary, NERDC