



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY



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ACRONYMS

MEANINGS

CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CL	Computational Linguistics
ECCDE	Early Child Care and Development Education
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
NFLV	Nigeria French Language Village
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HLT	Human Language Technology
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IEIs	Innovation Enterprise Institutions
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
LAN	Linguistic Association of Nigeria
LGA	Local Government Area
LGEAs	Local Government Education Authorities
LIC	Language of the Immediate Community
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Mother Tongue
NAL	Nigerian Academy of Letters
NALV	Nigeria Arabic Language Village
NERDC	Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council
NFVCB	National Film and Video Censors Board

NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NINLAN	National Institute for Nigerian Languages
NJI	National Judicial Institute
NLP	National Language Policy
NLp	Natural Language Processing
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NPE	National Policy on Education
NTI	National Teachers' Institute
RIL	Robot Interactive Language
ROILA	RObot Interaction LAnguage
SMoEs	State Ministries of Education
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training

FOREWORD

An overarching agenda of the current administration in the country has been to create the enabling environment that will engender the optimal development of Nigeria's human capital and rapid sustainable socio-economic growth. This can only be achieved through the formulation, reform and implementation of requisite policy frameworks. It must be obvious that the education sector will play a critical role in the pursuit and actualisation of this agenda, since it is the responsibility of the sector to supply the human capital needs of the country.

It was towards this end that we designed the Ministerial Strategic Plan, Education for Change (2015 – 2018), now revised (2018 – 2022) to drive the process of change in the education sector. The plan, which is the outcome of a series of engagements with relevant stakeholders and technocrats in education and other key sectors, identified critical areas requiring attention, if the education sector is to be repositioned to serve and achieve its purpose in the face of overwhelming odds.

One of such identified areas for attention is the articulation of a National Language Policy that will chart the way for the regulation, use and development of all the languages in Nigeria. There was a consensus among stakeholders that the absence of the Policy, had over the years, deprived Nigeria of all the beneficial values associated with the development and utilisation of such a policy.

Language policy has been defined as “a body of ideas, laws, regulations and practices intended to achieve planned language change in societies;” and as “an officially mandated set of rules for

language use and form in a nation-state”

In essence, language policy is a deliberate action by government through legislation for regulating the use, development and promotion of all languages in order to meet defined national needs, aspirations and priorities.

And more relevant to the education sector, recent research in language use has established the utility and superiority of using the mother tongue in instruction at the basic level of education over the use of a learned tongue. For this and other reasons, the development of a National Language Policy, thus, became a priority project in policy formulation efforts by the Federal Ministry of Education.

Pursuant to this, a Technical Committee was set up to drive the process, under the leadership of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), whose mandate it is to coordinate language projects throughout Nigeria. The committee was to come up with a Language Policy blueprint that cuts across all sectors of the Nigerian administrative and socio-economic sectors, taking cognisance of the nation's multilinguistic, multiethnic and multicultural contexts. I am happy with what the committee has achieved. I commend the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) for providing the technical leadership that led to the emergence of this National Language Policy document.

This policy is, therefore, a deliberate effort by the government to regulate the coexistence, development and utilisation of all Nigerian languages for national development. The policy has systematically addressed the numerous challenges confronting the

use, standardisation and overall development of Nigerian languages. These challenges include issues of assigning status to Nigerian languages, language use in various sectors of the economy, lack of orthographies for several Nigerian languages, dearth of materials developed in Nigerian languages and other political considerations.

Obviously, achieving the objectives of the National Language Policy will require effective coordination at various levels. There is also the need to build synergy and forge a strong network with the key stakeholders, including the development partners, language associations and institutions of learning. We have, therefore, set up a robust structure and framework to facilitate the implementation process.

I wish to express my gratitude to the various ministries and agencies that participated in the development of this policy. I also commend the technocrats and linguistic associations for their commitment and doggedness in the process of developing the policy.

Finally, it is my conviction that the implementation of the provisions of this National Language Policy will bring about a turnaround and give impetus to our effort to achieve national unity and sustainable economic development.



Adamu Adamu
Minister of Education.

PREFACE

The National Language Policy for Nigeria has a history that dates back to the colonial era. Earlier efforts at formulating a language policy for the country had emphasised the adoption of an indigenous lingua franca. Such efforts included the formulation of various and isolated policies (particularly in the media, education and judiciary) that were not expansive enough to sufficiently promote the effective use of the Nigerian languages in all spheres of the nation's socio-economic activities. These efforts informed the need for a language policy that would not only accord the Nigerian languages the requisite status by making stipulations on various aspects of their development; but also entrench their effective use in the conduct of various government functions and other socio-economic activities, in order to forestall their extinction.

The National Language Policy presented herein is, therefore, a product of decades of painstaking studies and efforts towards the development, promotion and preservation of the Nigerian languages. The Policy reckons with the pragmatic position that all Nigerian languages are equal. Specifically, the National Language Policy seeks to embolden all Nigerian languages through innovative contemporary transformation processes that enable the users to retain their cultural identity, while expressing their

creative and innovative capabilities for making contributions to national and global knowledge resources.

The pluralistic and multilingual nature of Nigeria; thus, call for an integrative approach to the development of the National Language Policy. This will ensure inclusiveness as well as provide equal opportunities for all Nigerian languages to develop and thrive. Hence, a combination of models propelled the National Language Policy development process as follows:

- The Status Planning Model that established the social role and standing of languages.
- The Corpus Planning Model, which guides policy stipulations on language research, codification, standardisation and documentation.
- The Language-in-Education Model for regulating policy provisions on language use in the education sector. These include issues of instructional medium, curriculum and instructional materials across the various levels of education.
- The Prestige Planning Model, which is inclined towards boosting the status or role of languages.

The National Language Policy (NLP) document comprises eight (8) chapters. This ensures a comprehensive coverage of the language issues in Nigeria. Chapter 1 gives a detailed background

and context of the policy document. The very essence and foundational principles of the language policy are captured in Chapter 2, as outlined in the philosophy, goals, objectives, models and guiding principles of the policy. Chapter 3 is essentially on policy declarations and statements on language and language status.

Policy declarations and statements on language use in specific sectors of the Nigerian economy are presented in Chapter 4. The primary focus is to encourage the promotion, development, preservation and use of the Nigerian languages in all aspects of human endeavour; while policies on issues concerning language research, development and extension services are expounded in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 is devoted to critical implementation issues, namely: the sustainability and accountability strategies of the National Language Policy.

Since funding is a key to the effective implementation of the NLP, Chapter 7 highlights the strategies for aggressive mobilisation of funds and resources across all levels of governments (Federal, State and Local Governments); communities and all sectors of the economy. The National Language Policy document concludes in Chapter 8 by specifying roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders (governments, public and private institutions and agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, faith

based organisations, etc.).

Drafting a National Language Policy of this nature was a gigantic task. Several workshops and meetings were held to actualise the policy. Enormous efforts and resources (physical, financial and human) went into the development of the document. It is, therefore, with a deep sense of gratitude that I acknowledge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR); the Honourable Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu; and the Minister of State for Education, Honourable Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba; for their enthusiasm and support towards the development of the National Language Policy. It is worthy of note that the Federal Government of Nigeria through, the Federal Ministry of Education, financed the various stages of the policy development.

Other inputs into this policy document, in terms of data collection from language experts, teachers, administrators, policy planners and other stakeholders were enormous. For these, the Management and Staff of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) are, indeed, very grateful to the Linguistic Association of Nigeria (LAN), the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL) and other renowned language experts across the country. We are equally indebted to Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), such as the Federal Ministry

of Information and Culture, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Federal Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Justice, Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and several other partners for their contributions towards the formulation of this Policy.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude, all frontline linguists across the country whose prime vision very early in our history as a nation, and through dedication and hard work initiated the movement for a Language Policy for Nigeria. It is our sincere belief at NERDC that this policy will provide all stakeholders with the needed inspiration to regulate the development, preservation, promotion and use of the Nigerian languages.



Prof. Ismail Junaidu FLAN, MNAE
Executive Secretary, NERDC



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Introduction

Language is one of the most important human attributes and endowments that are essential and germane to national, socio-economic and human development. Language and culture are interwoven; and together, they define our cultural traits, norms, and values. In addition to the invaluable role of language in human development, language is also fundamental to the attainment of national goals and objectives. It is in recognition of its importance to human and societal development that nations make deliberate effort towards the provision of regulatory guidelines and standards on the status, use, promotion and preservation of languages. In view of the above, there is the need to develop a national language policy for Nigeria. It is, therefore, necessary to review the historical, socio-political, and linguistic landscape of Nigeria, as a backdrop to the policy for the country.

Nigerian Socio-Political and Linguistic Landscape

Nigeria currently has a population of over 200 million people consisting of diverse ethnic groups living in their own territories. These groups each has its own linguistic, traditional, socio-political structure, cultural traits and histories. Nigeria is divided into six (6) Geo-political Zones (namely, in alphabetical order:

North Central, North East, North West, South East, South South, South West). The country is presently composed of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Nigeria operates a three-tier government structure, namely: Federal, State and Local. There are three distinct arms of government: the Executive, Legislative and the Judiciary. Their powers and functions are determined by the constitution of the country. There are also traditional political institutions that exert influence and control over ethnic and traditional communities.

The country is a multilingual and pluralistic nation. Geo-political adjustments over the years have split homogenous linguistic groups and sometimes brought together heterogeneous linguistic entities. Consequently, languages spoken in almost all the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, have become more divergent than ever; thus, further complicating the linguistic landscape.

According to the sociolinguistic survey of language diversity and language use in Nigeria (NERDC 2008 revalidated, 2021), five hundred and forty (540) languages are spoken in Nigeria.

In terms of languages spoken in the zones, the North East, North West, North Central and South-South zones, can be regarded as heterogeneous, while the South West and South East zones are largely homogenous. Nevertheless, English and the Nigerian Pidgin are spoken across all the six geo-political zones.

Within the Nigerian linguistic landscape, there are different Nigerian languages (some of which are at different levels of endangerment). English, French, Arabic and Pidgin English interact with the Nigerian languages in the system. Nigerian languages, like Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba that are spoken by large

populations, also serve as lingua franca in four (4) geo-political zones. Although English is used in all socio-economic spheres, other Nigerian languages are also used in other social domains.

Several factors are responsible for the large number of languages spoken in Nigeria. These include the problem of differentiating between 'language' and 'dialect'; the different names given to the same language(s) by the speakers themselves and by different people; the existence of some of the languages in different states; the creation of geo-political units and the wish of the people to maintain a separate linguistic identity.

Historical Foundations and Institutional Framework of the Policy

Hitherto, there was no single policy document in Nigeria that exclusively contained stipulations or provisions on language and language development. Previous efforts in developing policy and institutional documents, with stipulations and provisions on language use and application, date back to the colonial era.

During the colonial era, stipulations concerning the use and application of language considered English as the official and administrative language. Nevertheless, the colonial administration gave due consideration to the use of some Nigerian languages for administrative convenience and commerce. These languages included Efik, Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba.

The pre-colonial and immediate post-colonial eras witnessed the effective utilisation of Nigerian and other languages in the print and electronic media. For instance, the policy for the teaching of English and other Nigerian languages in schools was established especially under various education ordinances, as well as after the

implementation of the report of the Phelps-Stokes Commission (1924).

The study of Nigerian languages, English, Arabic and French languages were consolidated at both Basic and Secondary Education levels by the provisions of the *National Policy on Education* (NPE 1970, 1998, 2004 and 2014).

The Christian missionaries, language boards, associations and committees played significant roles towards the development of Nigerian languages through codification, graphisation, research and development of instructional and reading materials.

Similarly, legal and administrative foundation for the management and conduct of language development activities had been established. For instance, the foundation for the use of Nigerian languages for parliamentary debates was laid and supported by legislations. Typically, the *Northern Nigeria Constitution* (N. N. Law of 1963) provided for the use of English and Hausa in the Regional House of Assembly and House of Chiefs; while Section 59 of the 1963 Constitution of the Federation, No. 20, provided for deliberations in English.

Section 51 of the 1979 *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* provided that the business of the National Assembly should be conducted in English; and in Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, when adequate arrangements had been made thereof. This provision had been retained in Section 55 of the 1999 *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* (No. 24 of 1999, as amended in 2011).

Similarly, Section 91 of the 1979 *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* provided that the business of a State House of

Assembly should be conducted in English, but the House may, in addition to English, conduct the business of the House in one or more languages spoken in the state as the House may, by resolution, approve. The same provision had been retained in Section 97 of the 1999 *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* (No. 24 of 1999, as amended in 2011).

There are also different statutory and administrative policy documents that contain provisions or stipulations that are meant to handle and execute programmes on language development, promotion and preservation. Some documents that contain policy provisions on the use of languages in Nigeria include the *National Policy on Education* (2014); the *National Cultural Policy* (1988) and the *National Broadcasting Code* of 2016 (amended in 2020). These documents enable the attainment of set objectives and utilisation of languages (Nigerian and foreign) for national development.

Nigeria also recorded significant achievements in the establishment of institutional and statutory frameworks for the discharge of specific functions on language. There are agencies and institutions in Nigeria with specific mandates to carry out language development functions and responsibilities, as stipulated in their respective enabling Acts. These include the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN), French Language Village (FLV) and Arabic Language Village (ALV).

A number of universities, colleges of education, polytechnics, language research centres and departments offer courses, programmes and projects on Nigerian and foreign languages. There are various language associations that contribute substantially towards the development of languages in Nigeria; for

instance, the Linguistic Association of Nigeria (LAN) and the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL).

Although these institutions and agencies have continued to perform their statutory functions with remarkable degree of success, the challenges and constraints to the use of languages in Nigeria need to be addressed. These include the lack of a coherent National Language Policy, apathy in the implementation of the existing language provisions in management and administrative documents, language endangerment, dearth of language teachers and inadequacy of the existing language provisions.

Scope, Methodology and Stages of Policy Development

The scope of this policy covers the nation's social, communicative and administrative activities in all government structures (National, State, and Local Governments), as well as private institutions. Specifically, this National Language Policy makes provisions for the use of language in the following domains:

- Education.
- The Media.
- Information, Communication and Technology.
- Legislature.
- Judiciary
- Governance, Administration and Politics.
- Town and regional planning.
- Entertainment industry.
- Trading activities.
- Banking.
- Science and technology.
- Health.
- Environment and agricultural extension services.
- Security.

The methodology adopted in the development of the policy consisted of the following stages:

1. articulation of plans and programmes for the Policy development process;
2. sociolinguistic survey in the 36 States and the FCT to update existing data on language diversity and use in Nigeria, so as to provide evidence on which to formulate the Policy provisions and stipulations;
3. development of the framework, designed to guide and define its scope;
4. development of draft and blueprint of the Policy in a series of workshops;
5. presentation of the draft to critical stakeholders and experts;
6. public opinion/dialogue and sensitisation of wider stakeholders, for further inputs;
7. harmonisation/finalisation of the policy blueprint by the National Technical Committee; and
8. development of the Policy Plan of Action and implementation guidelines.

Chapter

2

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, MODELS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

1. The philosophy of the National Language Policy (NLP) is derived from the overall philosophy of the nation, which emphasises unity and harmony as one indivisible, indissoluble, democratic, and sovereign nation founded on the principle of freedom, equality and justice.
2. The philosophy of the National Language Policy is entrenched in the underlying ideologies that:
 - a. languages are veritable tools for transformation, socio-economic and political development;
 - b. languages are tied to culture and, as such, serve as marks of identity and repositories of the traditions, norms and values of the different peoples of Nigeria;
 - c. all Nigerian languages are national assets and treasures and must be preserved and transferred to the subsequent generations;
 - d. languages in Nigeria have limitless potentials to generate economic activities, provide employment and create wealth; and
 - e. language is a catalyst for efficient quality and equitable education and provide access and opportunities that engender positive outcomes and global competitiveness.
3. The ideology of the National Language Policy is premised on

social change, which is geared towards sustainable development, including human capital development.

4. The goals of the National Language Policy are to:
 - a. ensure the promotion and preservation of Nigerian languages as national heritage to be transferred to subsequent generations;
 - b. ensure the mother tongue or the Language of the Immediate Community (LIC) is used as a medium of instruction at designated levels of education;
 - c. ensure the utilisation of languages within the various sectors of national development;
 - d. ensure the coordination and conduct of research, codification and documentation of Nigerian languages;
 - e. assign status, function, and roles to languages at the different levels and arms of government and within the society for effective interaction and communication in different domains; and
 - f. equip languages with the potentials to provide socio-economic activities and opportunities for sustainable development.
5. The objectives of the National Language Policy are to:
 - a. consolidate previous efforts and provide adequate and functional regulatory provisions for language use and development in Nigeria;
 - b. preserve Nigerian languages and save them from endangerment and extinction;
 - c. foster linguistic and national unity by providing each language an equitable role and attention within the national milieu;
 - d. enable the effective use of language in different domains, like education, legislature, administration, etc. with all

- the attendant positive outcomes;
 - e. promote Nigerian languages for effective communication in the print and electronic media;
 - f. promote participatory democracy and good governance through equitable use of Nigerian languages at various levels;
 - g. facilitate the management of culture and cultural diversity; and
 - h. implement regional and international initiatives on the development and use of Nigerian and other languages.
6. The policy derives its core concepts and principles from the fields of sociolinguistics, language description and pragmatics, based on established models and practices that are essentially concerned with language use, development, planning and administration.
 7. The National Language Policy is based on the integrated and multilingual approach, which is a convenient blend of models and approaches.
 8. The models and approaches that provide the basis from which the principles, strategies and concepts are drawn and utilised include the:
 - a. Status Planning Model, which focuses on social roles and standing of languages;
 - b. Corpus Planning Model, which stipulates and focuses on language research, codification, standardisation and documentation (including graphisation, dictionary, metalanguage and technical terms);
 - c. Language-in-Education Model, which focuses on language regulatory provisions in the education sector, including issues of instructional medium, curriculum and instructional materials across the various levels of

- education;
- d. Prestige Planning Model, which is inclined towards boosting the status or role of languages; and
 - e. Domain-sensitive Model, which emphasises special attention to policy guidelines and stipulations on the use of languages in the various spheres of national development.
9. The guiding principles take cognisance of the Nigerian ecology and context; and are attuned to related language issues in the various domains. Therefore, the policy is based on the use of a variety of established language policy models, principles and strategies that address the language issues in Nigeria.
10. It is important to state that the selection of the language policy principles or strategies, while designing the document, depended to a large extent on their need and relevance to language issues, choices and use within the respective domains; as well as the desire to adequately address the general and specific policy objectives. This is to allow for inclusiveness and versatility in the effective handling of many language issues, including the provision of equal opportunities for the languages.
11. The approach used in the evolution of the policy included the following:
- a. detailed review of the language provisions in existing documents (e.g., the *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria* (1999) (as amended in 2011); *National Policy on Education* (NPE, 2014); *Nigeria Broadcasting Code* (revised 2020); and the *National Cultural Policy* (1988);
 - b. adoption of the Language of the Immediate Community (LIC) Model through the Primary School level;

- c. adoption of the selective or optional methods, to study other languages in addition to the study of English and the LIC;
- d. choices and recognition of the LIC at the Federal, State and Local Government levels, taking into consideration constitutional and other policy provisions, language spread, language development and other established equitable criteria;
- e. assigning functions or roles to languages to meet the needs and realities of national development; and
- f. stipulations on the functions, responsibilities and roles of governments, institutions, agencies and other critical stakeholders in language development, financing, implementation, policy monitoring and evaluation.

Chapter

3

**POLICY DECLARATIONS
AND STATEMENTS ON
LANGUAGE AND
LANGUAGE STATUS**

12. Whereas Nigeria is a multilingual society that is endowed with many languages that constitute a source of strength within the national and African sub-regional and global linguistic landscape:
 - a. The Federal Government of Nigeria recognises the significance of language at the various levels of governance; and how invaluable it is to human and national development;
 - b. The Federal Government of Nigeria recognises language vitality and utility as necessary conditions and tools that would facilitate development in the different national socio-economic spheres; and
 - c. The Federal Government of Nigeria recognises the need to establish core language policy directions and guidelines for the country.
13. Therefore, the Federal Government is committed to the preservation and promotion of the Nigerian languages and now provides a National Language Policy for Nigeria.
14. The Federal Government hereby declares as follows:
 - a. The Policy shall be implemented in conjunction with the

36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Local Government Areas, relevant agencies and stakeholders.

- b. The Policy, which shall be revised every 10 years, shall regulate the coexistence, status and use of Nigerian languages and other languages in the country.
- c. All Nigerian languages are national treasures and heritage and shall be preserved from endangerment and extinction.
- d. All Nigerian languages are equal and none shall be held superior or inferior against the other.
- e. All Nigerian languages shall be assigned equitable functions and roles for communication and interaction within the socio-economic domains of the country.
- f. The Federal, State and Local Governments shall create the enabling environment through the provision of legal and institutional frameworks, facilities and resources that will foster language development, use and preservation in Nigeria.
- g. Without prejudice to existing statutory provisions, the Federal Government, in conjunction with the State Governments, shall be committed to the development of Languages of Wider Communication based on set vitality, utility and equitable standards.
- h. The Federal Government of Nigeria shall support efforts to develop less developed and endangered Nigerian languages facing extinction.
- i. State Governments, in conjunction with the Local Governments, within their domains shall identify Languages of Wider Communication.

- j. State Governments, in conjunction with Local Governments, shall identify less developed and endangered languages and take adequate action for their development and preservation.
- k. The traditional rulers are considered custodians of language and culture, and as such, are to play significant roles in the development, promotion and preservation of the Nigerian languages.

Chapter **4**

POLICY STATEMENTS ON LANGUAGE USE IN SPECIFIC SECTORS

Education

15. Government recognises the importance of language policy in education in the effort to develop , preserve, promote, and use all Nigerian languages in all aspects of human endeavour.
16. The objectives of language policy in education are to:
 - a. promote the effective teaching and learning of Nigerian and foreign languages at all levels of the education system;
 - b. preserve Nigerian languages and save them from extinction through status recognition and inclusion in educational programmes across all levels of the Nigerian education system;
 - c. activate Nigerian languages as powerful tools for mass literacy development;
 - d. strengthen and promote the equitable utilization of all Nigerian and foreign languages;
 - e. promote the effective utilization of sign language;
 - f. promote the teaching and learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and other subjects in Nigerian languages; and

- g. promote the development of textual and instructional materials in various Nigerian languages including sign language.
17. In order to achieve these objectives, the policy provisions shall be applicable to all levels of education in Nigeria. The levels of education are as follows:
- a) Basic Education
 - i. Early Childhood Care Development and Education
 - ii. Pre-primary Education
 - iii. Primary Education
 - iv. Junior Secondary Education.
 - b) Post-Basic Education
 - i. Senior Secondary Education
 - ii. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
 - c) Mass and Nomadic Education:
 - i. Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education
 - ii. Nomadic Education.
 - d) Tertiary Education
 - i. University Education
 - ii. Teacher Education
 - iii. Technology Education
 - iv. Innovation Enterprise Institutions

Application and language use in education

A. Basic Education

18. To ensure effective delivery of instructions and attendant positive learning outcomes, Mother Tongue (MT) or Language of the Immediate Community (LIC) shall be used as the medium of instruction from Early Childhood Care and Development Education to the six years of primary education.

However, Arabic language shall be the medium of instruction for Islamic schools. During this period, English language shall be taught as a school subject.

19. English language shall be used as the language of instruction at the Junior Secondary education level. However, a combined use of English language and the mother tongue or language of immediate community shall be encouraged accordingly.
20. In addition to the study of English language and the Mother Tongue, a child shall be allowed to study, as an optional school subject, the Nigerian language of the community, if it is different from the Mother Tongue.
21. Federal, State and Local Governments shall ensure the effective supervision of the teaching and learning of Nigerian languages.
22. Sustained efforts shall be made to develop and regularly review the curricula for teaching and learning of all Nigerian languages.
23. Efforts shall be made to develop orthographies and metalanguages for the teaching and learning of all Nigerian languages.
24. While French language shall be taught as a compulsory school subject from Primary Four, Arabic language shall be an optional subject from Primary One. However, Arabic language shall be compulsory for learners offering Islamic Studies.
25. Efforts shall be made to develop and produce educational materials in the various Nigerian languages. Registers in Nigerian languages for the various school subjects shall be developed.
26. Programmes and activities aimed at promoting the

development and production of educational materials in the various Nigerian languages shall be encouraged and sustained.

27. Efforts shall be made to develop science and technology textual and other instructional materials in various Nigerian languages.
28. Registers of science and technology in the various Nigerian languages shall be developed and regularly updated to encourage the teaching and learning of STEM.
29. Sign language shall be taught to learners who have hearing and speech impairment, from entry point.
30. The medium of instruction for online based educational programme shall be the language widely spoken by the target audience.

B. Post-Basic Education

31. The medium of instruction at the Post-Basic Education level shall be English language. However, a combined use of mother tongue or language of immediate community and English language shall be encouraged. For Islamic schools, the medium of instruction shall be Arabic language.
32. Federal and State Governments shall ensure the effective supervision of teaching and learning of Nigerian languages.
33. In addition to the study of the English language, students shall be made to study one Nigerian Language, as a compulsory subject, at the Senior Secondary School (SSS) level.
34. Efforts shall be made to develop orthographies and metalanguages for teaching and learning of Nigerian languages.
35. Sustained efforts shall be made to develop and review curricula for the teaching and learning of all Nigerian languages.

36. French and Arabic languages shall be offered as optional school subjects at the Post Basic Education level. However, Arabic shall be compulsory for students offering Islamic Studies.
37. Efforts shall be made to develop and produce educational materials in the various Nigerian languages. Registers in Nigerian languages for the various school subjects shall be developed.
38. Government at all levels shall make efforts to develop science and technology textual and other instructional materials in various Nigerian languages.
39. Government at all levels shall make efforts to develop metalanguages in STEM in the various Nigerian languages .
40. Sign language shall be taught as a subject to learners with speech and hearing impairment. The curriculum for the teaching and learning of sign language shall be developed and periodically reviewed.
41. The teaching of sign language shall be upscaled and developed
42. Regular training shall be conducted for teachers and other education personnel on sign language.
43. To enhance the acquisition of skills at vocational and training institutions, the language of instruction shall be the language widely spoken in the area where the institution is located and/or English.
44. The medium of instruction for online based educational programme shall be in English and the Nigerian language widely spoken by the target audience.
45. Government shall encourage the establishment of Post Basic institutions that the medium of instruction shall be only in any Nigerian language.

C. Mass and Nomadic Education.

(i) Mass Education

46. The delivery of instructions shall be in the Mother Tongue (MT) or Language of the Immediate Community (LIC). During the period, English language shall be taught as a subject.
47. In addition to the study of English language and the Mother Tongue, a learner shall be allowed to study, as an optional subject, the Nigerian language of immediate community (LIC), if it is different from the Mother Tongue or second language of choice.
48. While French language shall be taught as one of the subjects at the post literacy level, Arabic language shall be an optional subject for all categories of learners. However, Arabic language shall be compulsory for students offering Islamic Studies.
49. Efforts shall be made to develop and produce teaching and learning materials in the various Nigerian languages.

(ii) Nomadic Education

50. The delivery of instructions shall be in the Mother Tongue (MT) or Language of the Immediate Community (LIC) at the primary education level. During this period, English language shall be taught as a school subject.
51. While French language shall be taught as one of the subjects at the post literacy level, Arabic shall be an optional subject for all categories of learners. However, Arabic language shall be compulsory for learners offering Islamic Studies.
52. Efforts shall be made to develop and produce teaching and learning materials in the various Nigerian languages.

53. Federal, State and Local Governments shall ensure the effective supervision of the teaching and learning of Nigerian languages.

D. Tertiary Education

(I) University Education

54. Bilingualism, in which every student is to learn one Nigerian Language other than the mother tongue, shall be encouraged in all universities. This shall be available to all students, as an elective course, irrespective of their area of study.
55. A credit in one Nigerian language shall be accepted for admissions into social science and humanities in tertiary education institutions.
56. General Studies shall be extended to include languages of the immediate community of every university. Each university shall put in place appropriate measures for the actualisation of this provision.
57. Projects, dissertations and theses shall have an additional abstract written in the language of the immediate community or the mother tongue of the student, if it is not the same as the language of the immediate community.
58. Government shall encourage the establishment of universities whose medium of instruction shall be any of the Nigerian languages.
59. The medium of instruction for online based educational programme shall be English language and any Nigerian language, as applicable.

(ii) Teacher Education

60. Federal and State Governments shall actively promote the production and development of quality Nigerian language teachers for the Basic and Senior Secondary Education levels.
61. Bilingualism, in which every student is to learn any Nigerian Language (with an orthography) other than the mother tongue, shall be encouraged in all institutions offering teacher education programme. This shall be available to all students, as an elective course, irrespective of their area of study.
62. Efforts shall be made to give teacher education students the opportunity to acquire the rudiments of teaching in the various Nigerian languages. Thus, special courses in Nigerian languages shall be available to all students of teacher education.
63. General Studies shall be extended to languages of immediate community of every teacher education institution. Each institution shall put in place appropriate measures for the actualisation of this provision.
64. Sign language shall be a critical component of teacher education programme. This is to adequately prepare the would-be teachers to function effectively in an inclusive classroom.
65. Projects, dissertations and theses shall have an additional abstract written in the language of the immediate community or the mother tongue of the student, if it is not the same as the language of the immediate community.
66. Teacher education institutions shall be encouraged to conduct teaching practice, at the basic education level (precisely from ECCDE to the six years of primary education) in the language of the immediate community, provided such students are able to speak the language fluently.
67. Government shall encourage the establishment of teacher

education institutions that the medium of instruction shall be only in any Nigerian language.

68. The medium of instruction for online based educational programme shall be English language or any Nigerian language, as may be applicable.

(ii) Technology Education

69. General Studies shall be extended to languages of the immediate community of technology institutions. Each institution shall put in place appropriate measures for the actualisation of this provision.
70. Projects, dissertations and theses shall have an additional abstract written in the language of the immediate environment or the mother tongue of the student, if it is not the same as the language of the immediate community.
71. Efforts shall be made to entrench Nigerian languages in the teaching and learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
72. Technology-biased institutions shall, in collaboration with relevant institutions, be encouraged to develop materials for teaching and learning in Nigerian languages.
73. Government shall encourage the establishment of technology institutions whose medium of instruction shall be any of the Nigerian languages.
74. The medium of instruction for online based educational programme shall be English language or the language widely spoken by the target audience.

(iv) Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs)

75. To enhance the acquisition of skills at the institutions, the language of instruction shall be the language widely spoken in the area where the institution is located and/or English

language.

76. The Institutions, shall, in collaboration with relevant institutions, be encouraged to develop materials for teaching and learning in Nigerian languages.
77. Government shall encourage the establishment of IEs that the medium of instruction shall be only in any Nigerian language.
78. The medium of instruction for online based educational programme shall be the language widely spoken by the target audience or English language.

Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)

79. Language is the foundation for information and communication; hence, concerted efforts shall be made to ensure the effective utilisation of Nigerian languages in the sector.
80. The objectives of language policy in ICT are to:
 - a. ensure effective use of Nigerian languages in information and communication.
 - b. ensure equitable access to information by all Nigerians and other foreign nationals, irrespective of culture, location and social status.
 - c. create opportunities for Nigerian citizens and others to maximally benefit from the advances in information and communication technology.
81. This policy shall be applicable in all Information and Communications Technology (ICT) usage and development situations within Nigeria. This will include telecommunication, conventional broadcast and social media.
82. ICT tools and innovations imported into or developed in Nigeria must be of such design that is compatible with or easily adaptable to Nigerian languages. These include and

may not be limited to social media applications, computers, mobile phones, digital devices.

83. Broadcast media organisations shall ensure that not less than 60% of their programming is broadcast in the Nigerian languages most commonly used in the communities where they are domiciled.
84. Broadcasting at the national level (network services) shall be done in English language and the Nigerian languages, as stipulated in the Nigeria Broadcast Code.
85. Broadcast media organisations shall regularly train and re-train their personnel in the use of Nigerian languages and basic aspects of the Nigerian culture.
86. All scripts of news and programmes broadcast in Nigerian languages shall be properly documented and archived for research purposes.
87. Nigerian tertiary institutions and students shall be encouraged and motivated to regularly impact this domain by developing ICT facilities and applications that are compatible with Nigerian languages. This shall be done through the institution and endowment of research grants and scholarship to schools and students who show genuine potential.
88. National orientation and public enlightenment programmes shall be conducted in Nigerian languages for effective communication and promotion of active citizenship.
89. The establishment of broadcasting stations that use only Nigerian languages, shall be promoted.
90. There shall be sustained advocacy to promote the use of Nigerian languages in social media interactions.

Culture, Tourism and Entertainment

91. Language is recognised as the driving force of culture, tourism and entertainment, and effort shall be made to ensure the

- effective use of Nigerian languages in the sector.
92. The objectives of language policy in culture, tourism and entertainment are to:
 - a. promote the use of Nigerian languages within the domain;
 - b. facilitate the export of Nigerian languages through culture, tourism and entertainment;
 - c. promote Nigeria's cultural heritage and tourism;
 - d. generate and sustain interest in the use of Nigerian languages in Nigeria and the diaspora; and
 - e. help maintain Nigeria's cultural diversity.
 93. This Policy shall be applicable at the Federal, State and Local Government levels.
 94. There shall be sustained public enlightenment campaigns and advocacy to encourage the use of Nigerian languages, as means of communication within families and communities.
 95. The production, distribution and preservation of not less than 40% of film, theatre and music in Nigerian languages shall be mandatory for every production company. To ensure compliance, tracking and monitoring shall be done by the National Film and Video Censors Board.
 96. Culture and tourism brochures and other historical site informational literature in English language shall be translated into the Nigerian language widely spoken in the area where the site is located.
 97. The National Anthem and National Pledge rendered in Nigerian languages shall be used at official public functions.
 98. NYSC language orientation programmes shall be enforced and strengthened in all camps through organised language proficiency programmes.
 99. Public service announcements at airports, train stations, parks, etc. shall, in addition to the English language version, be rendered in Nigerian languages, as appropriate.

100. Films and entertainment industries shall be encouraged to provide subtitles and voice over in Nigerian languages in products and services produced in foreign languages.
101. In sporting events, commentaries shall be done in English language and Nigerian languages of wider communication.

Government/Administration

102. Language choice in government and administration shall be sensitive to the multilingual nature of Nigeria in order to ensure inclusiveness.
103. The objectives of the language policy in government/administration are to:
 - a. ensure enhanced service delivery;
 - b. make for better understanding of government policies;
 - c. encourage the learning of Nigerian languages; and
 - d. promote employment.
104. All tiers of government - Federal, State and Local governments, as well as institutions exercising public power or performing public functions shall be bound by this Policy.
105. This Policy recognises English language (British Standard English) as the official language of Nigeria.
106. English language shall be the official and administrative language at the Federal level, while official documents shall be rendered and/or translated into identified Nigerian languages of wider communication.
107. The official language in the States shall be English. In addition, the business of government, at the state level, shall also be conducted in Nigerian languages of wider communication identified by the state governments in conjunction with the local governments.
108. Government publications at the national level shall be in

English language and identified Nigerian languages of wider communication.

109. State and Local governments shall publish documents in English language and Nigerian languages identified as languages of wider communication.
110. Oral communication shall be in English language or the preferred language of the target audience, while provision shall be made to simultaneously interpret in sign language.
111. Interpreters and translators in Nigerian languages shall be readily available in different government offices.
112. Registered political parties shall be required to, in addition to English, render and translate their constitutions and manifestoes into Nigerian languages.

Legislature

113. Government recognises the legislature as a participatory and deliberative assembly in which the use of language is central.
114. The objectives of the policy provisions pertaining to language use in the legislature in Nigeria are to:
 - a. enable legislative deliberations, proceedings & processes of lawmaking to be rendered and consolidated in English and Nigerian languages;
 - b. enable the translation, interpretation and documentation of deliberations, proceedings and laws enacted by the legislature in the different Nigerian languages, as the case may be, at national, state and local levels;
 - c. facilitate effective participation by the legislators in deliberations and lawmaking process in a medium or means that can be monitored by the constituents;
 - d. ensure that the laws are within the understanding of the general populace to enhance compliance; and

- e. promote the understanding of the rights and obligations of the populace.

For the purpose of effective use of language in the legislature:

- 115. English, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba shall be the languages of deliberation at the National Assembly; and adequate arrangements shall be made accordingly.
- 116. The proceedings or deliberations conducted in any of these Languages shall be interpreted and recorded in the other three languages. Where the proceedings or deliberations are conducted in Nigerian languages, they shall be recorded and translated into English.
- 117. Public hearings shall be conducted in English and other Nigerian languages of wider communication in the area where the public hearing is taking place.
- 118. Laws enacted shall be written in English and translated into Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and other Nigerian languages of wider communication.
- 119. At the State and Local Government levels, identified languages of wider communication shall, in addition to English, be used in legislative deliberations and shall be recorded, transcribed and translated into English.
- 120. Statutory laws and enactments shall be published in English and other Nigerian languages of wider communication in the States as the State Houses of Assembly may by resolution approve.
- 121. Statutory laws and enactments shall be translated into as many Nigerian languages spoken in the State or Local Government Areas.
- 122. Legislators shall be trained periodically to enhance their skills in the use of Nigerian languages during deliberations in the State Houses of Assembly and Local Government Councils;

123. Qualified translators and interpreters shall be employed or deployed to national and state assemblies to coordinate and manage the use of languages in legislative deliberations and proceedings.
124. Federal, State and Local governments shall provide facilities for translation, interpretation, verbatim recording and documentation of deliberations and proceedings of legislative assemblies in Nigeria.

Judiciary

125. Government recognises that the use of language is very crucial to court processes and proceedings, as well as the pursuit of freedom and expression of opinions and ideas.
126. The objectives of the use of language in the judiciary are to:
 - a. ensure the effective use of Nigerian languages as alternatives or complementary to the other language of the court;
 - b. enhance speedy dispensation of justice and improve the quality of judgment delivered in a familiar language medium;
 - c. and ensure that justice is easily accessible, free and fair through the use of a familiar language medium.

For effective use of language in the judiciary:

127. The policy provisions shall cover all Courts in the justice system of Nigeria, starting from the Customary/Area Court to the Supreme Court; and by extension the Police and the Correctional Facilities.
128. English shall remain the official language and the lingua franca of the courts in Nigeria which has adopted the British legal system.
129. English shall be used exclusively in the superior courts:

Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court, FCT High Court specialised courts such as Tribunals and Industrial Court.

130. English and the languages of wider communication shall be used at the State High Courts, Magistrate Courts, Customary/Area Courts and Sharia Courts.
131. As guaranteed in the constitution, professional interpreters shall be provided for an accused person who does not understand the language used in any court.
132. Judges of States' High Courts and Lower Courts shall be trained in the use of languages of wider communication in their Areas of Jurisdiction.
133. Properly trained interpreters shall be readily available in the Courts either as fulltime staff or on retainerhip.
134. Efforts shall be made to translate and publish Law Reports in Nigerian languages.
135. The Constitution and statutory laws shall be translated into Nigerian languages.
136. The institutions responsible for language development and learning shall develop metalanguage of legal terms in Nigerian languages.

Security

137. The objectives of the language policy in security are to:
 - a. improve public trust in the security system of the country;
 - b. ensure effective communication between the citizens and security personnel; and
 - c. enhance intelligence gathering.
138. This Policy covers the Armed Forces, the Police and all other Security Agencies.

- 139.English, which is the official language of the country, shall continue to be used in all spheres of our national security.
- 140.Written communication shall be in English and when necessary, translated into Nigerian languages.
- 141.Oral communication shall be in English, Nigerian Pidgin or any Nigerian language, accompanied by sign language, and interpretation shall be provided for those who do not understand the language used.
- 142.Nigerian languages and sign language shall be given priority in the training of security personnel and dissemination of public information.
- 143.Security agencies shall adopt Nigerian Pidgin as a lingua franca for effective communication.
- 144.Safety signs at strategic points shall be written in English and in one or two other Nigerian languages of wider communication in any given area.
- 145.Part of the training of security personnel shall include one Nigerian language of wider communication other than their mother-tongue.
- 146.Security personnel shall be motivated through incentives to learn the languages of the immediate community where they are posted.
- 147.As much as is practicable, security personnel shall be posted to areas where their language competences would be utilised maximally.
- 148.More interpreters shall be trained and/or engaged in the security agencies.

Town Planning, Environment, Health and Agricultural Extension Services

- 149.Government recognises the importance of English and

Nigerian languages in communicating the essential terms, regulations, concepts, signs and labels, associated with town planning, environment, health care and agricultural extension services.

150. These policy provisions shall apply to services rendered by agencies and officials (public or private) in the sectors, at the Federal, State and Local government levels.

151. The objectives of the Policy in these sectors are to:

- a. ensure understanding of essential terms, regulations, concepts, signs and labels, associated with town planning, environment, health care and agricultural extension services;
- b. ensure effective communication and dissemination of information between practitioners in the sectors and their clients; and
- c. facilitate effective service provisions in the sectors.

In order to achieve these objectives:

152. Essential regulations, operational terms, concepts, and basic information associated with town planning, environment, medical/health care and agricultural extension services, shall be translated into Nigerian Languages.

153. Signs and labels in all public places (markets, streets, bus stops, motor parks, departmental stores, entertainment centres), public buildings (hospitals, court buildings, schools) and other monuments shall be in English and Nigerian languages of wider communication in the area where such buildings and monuments are located.

154. All categories of personnel in the sectors as well as sign language experts shall be trained in the use of Nigerian languages in the discharge of their duties.

155. Publicity and enlightenment campaigns in public health, town planning, environment, health care and agricultural extension services, shall be carried out in English and Nigerian languages.
156. Recruitment of extension service personnel in these sectors shall take into consideration the ability to effectively communicate in the language of the area or community where the services are to be rendered.

Commerce, Trade, Banking, Financial and Economic Activities

157. The effective use of Nigerian languages in financial and economic activities will ensure that all Nigerians are able to access economic and financial opportunities seamlessly for overall national development in the sector.
158. The objectives of this Policy in the sector are to:
 - a. promote inclusion, participation and access by all Nigerians in all areas of the national economy;
 - b. harness the linguistic and cultural resources of Nigeria in order to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), grow the economy and create wealth;
 - c. encourage the diversification of the Nigerian economy to promote job creation, wealth generation and alleviate poverty through language use in businesses; and
 - d. incorporate local contents into business trade agreements by way of our linguistic and cultural elements.

In order to achieve these objectives:

159. All Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and agreements for both national and international businesses shall be drafted in English and translated into Nigerian languages.

160. Markets (Capital, Commodity and Money) and financial institutions shall utilise English and Nigerian languages in the dissemination of information.
161. Manufacturers shall develop manuals/flyers in Nigerian languages and English.
162. Economic institutions shall be encouraged to recruit experts in Nigerian and sign languages to render language services to their clients with special language needs.
163. Financial institutions shall be encouraged to print some of their materials (e.g. tellers and other financial instruments) in Nigerian languages.
164. Relevant government institutions shall ensure that information on products that are introduced into Nigeria are rendered in foreign and Nigerian languages.
165. Business/trade activities, investment and banking services shall be advertised in Nigerian and other languages.

Chapter

5

LANGUAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION SERVICES

166. Government recognises the importance of research into language diversity and language use for the preservation, growth and development of Nigerian languages.
167. In order to promote the growth and development of Nigerian languages, the objectives of language research and development are to:
 - a. identify language problems for the purpose of carrying out research into such problems and finding solutions to them;
 - b. Prepare an overall design of language needs in education, health, administration, governance, judiciary, industry, commerce, environment, transport, town planning, tourism and other critical sectors of the Nigerian economy.
 - c. specify the status of Nigerian and foreign languages.Pursuant to the above objectives:
168. Language research and development shall be geared towards:
 - a. codification, standardisation, documentation and survey of language use and attitudes;
 - b. production of materials: language orthographies, curricula, meta-language, text books, supplementary reading materials, e-resources, etc.;
 - c. bintegrating ICT into Nigerian languages;
 - d. developing capacity for the use of Robot Interaction

Language (ROILA);

- e. provision of special services in language development, such as:
 - i. the production of specialist teachers in Nigerian Languages for all school subjects, particularly Mathematics, Sciences and Technology;
 - ii. manpower development, capacity building, and training of language personnel; and
 - iii. translation and interpretation services.
- 169. Government at Federal, State and LGA levels shall:
 - a. encourage the development of Nigerian languages through the provision of necessary materials, resources, funding, facilities and manpower;
 - b. fund language research and development projects in critical sectors of the economy;
 - c. motivate and encourage Nigerian language teachers and students through the provision of scholarships and special bursary awards.
 - d. provide and equip language research laboratories and clinics in critical sectors of the economy.
- 170. Development Partners and other Stakeholders involved in language development shall synergise in the production of teaching and learning resources and the training of Nigerian language teachers.
- 171. In order to promote the development of healthy reading culture and effective learning, Federal, State and Local Governments shall actively encourage publishers through favourable policies, incentives and patronage to produce suitable books (textbooks, children's story books, etc.) and other instructional materials, in the Nigerian languages.
- 172. Language Development Centres, Institutes and Tertiary Institutions shall be encouraged to:

- a. develop and produce language materials/resources;
 - b. carry out research into \educational needs and problems relating to language use;
 - c. build the capacity of teachers in the use of Nigerian languages for teaching school subjects;
 - d. develop programmes in Human Language Technology (HLT), Natural Language Processing (NLp) and Computational Linguistics (CL);
 - e. conduct research for developing capacity in RObot Interaction LAnguage (ROILA);
 - f. develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) language based on Nigerian languages for media, entertainment, science, fiction and security; and
 - g. develop capacity to transform traditional narratives into cartoons and diverse science motifs.
173. Language Centres and Departments shall engage in continuous research to explore and document strategies for the use of Nigerian languages to:
- a. foster inclusiveness and social cohesion;
 - b. improve access to, and success in educational, social and economic development.

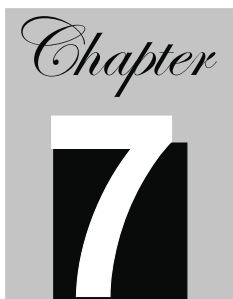
Chapter **6**

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY STRATEGIES

174. The effective implementation of the National Language Policy (NLP) depends on its accessibility and ownership by stakeholders.
175. Therefore, the objectives of this section are to:
- a. provide modalities for access to the policy by all stakeholders;
 - b. mobilise stakeholders' ownership and participation;
 - c. present strategies and framework for effective implementation of the NLP;
 - d. engender the required political will for promoting and implementing the provisions of the NLP.
176. In order to ensure that stakeholders have access to the policy, the following strategic actions shall be encouraged:
- a. Mass production and dissemination of the NLP through various channels, such as: print and electronic media, stakeholder consultations, press briefings, social media channels, etc.
 - b. Provision of appropriate and relevant information to stakeholders on the aspects of NLP relevant to them; their responsibilities and benefits arising there from.
 - c. Creating opportunities for stakeholders' feedback.

- d. Establishment of Steering and Implementation Committees at appropriate levels of government and society to mobilise political will for the implementation of the NLP.
177. Strategic actions for promoting stakeholders' ownership and participation shall include:
- a. Mapping the NLP to project its relevance and benefits to each stakeholder.
 - b. Production of the NLP in written and multi-media formats in Nigerian and foreign languages.
 - c. Interfacing with Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the Press and traditional institutions.
178. The implementation of the NLP shall be enhanced through the following:
- A. Legislative and Regulatory Actions such as:
 - a. passing of appropriate legislation on the NLP;
 - b. making relevant aspects of the policy enforceable;
 - c. empowering communities to take appropriate actions in line with NLP objectives. In this regard, government shall eliminate policies, processes and procedures that constrain community initiatives and participation in implementing the NLP;
 - d. reviewing existing regulations to promote broadcasting in Nigerian languages;
 - e. providing incentives that will promote and encourage programming and broadcasting in Nigerian languages; and

- f. developing programmes that are congruent with the NLP.
- B.** Strategic resourcing for NLP involving resource mobilisation activities such as:
 - a. Development of strategic plans (which include human resource planning, resource audit, resource use efficiency and training plans, etc.) for the NLP.
 - b. Conducting a Linguistic Needs Assessment.
 - c. Mapping of Nigeria into areas or zones on the basis of their linguistic and cultural Needs.
 - d. Developing appropriate plans to address these needs.
 - e. Assigning mandates to tertiary educational institutions regarding the identified needs in the relevant areas/zones.
- C.** Creating NLP Database, Archives and Tools by:
 - a. Aggregating and developing a database for NLP across all sectors and agencies.
 - b. Developing and disseminating open-access templates, tools, facilities and procedures to support mass participation in the development of Nigerian languages.
 - c. Mandatory ggregation of Nigerian language outputs across all sectors in order to provide data for diverse use.



FUNDING, RESOURCE MOBILISATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY

179. Effective implementation of the National Language Policy (NLP) will require aggressive mobilisation of funds and resources across all levels of governments (Federal, State and Local Governments), communities and other stakeholders.
180. This shall involve:
 - a. Institutionalisation of the National Language Policy as a line item in stakeholders' budgets at all levels of government;
 - b. Adequate and sustainable budgeting;
 - c. Mobilisation of funding support from local and international partners as well as development agencies for the policy;
 - d. Development of adaptive indicators with accompanying means of verification for measuring the activities;
 - e. Preparation and dissemination of performance implementation frameworks with appropriate benchmarks and timelines for the monitoring and evaluation of the NLP.

Chapter

8

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS

181. The specific roles of governments, key institutions and agencies shall be geared towards ensuring the effective implementation of the National Language Policy.
182. Government shall ensure that appropriate legislation is put in place to guide the use of Nigerian languages in all sectors of the economy.
183. Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies at Federal, States and the FCT shall:
 - a. oversee the implementation of this Policy, and
 - b. fund the implementation of the Policy .
184. Education agencies and parastatals shall in line with their mandates:
 - a. organize conferences, workshops and seminars in Nigerian and foreign languages;
 - b. coordinate and promote language research and development activities that will ensure the effective implementation of this policy;
 - c. develop instructional resources (curricula, books, orthographies, meta-language etc.) for the teaching and learning of Nigerian and foreign languages;
 - d. build the capacity of teachers and other personnel (tour guides, interpreters, translators, etc.) in the use of Nigerian

- language curricula and other related materials;
- e. develop database on the various aspects of Nigerian Languages;
 - f. commission and/or conduct researches for the development and use of Nigerian languages in the various sectors of the economy;
 - g. conduct immersion programmes for Nigerian and foreign languages; and
 - h. serve as centres for exchange of information and the study of Nigerian and foreign languages.
185. Linguistic and Language Associations shall:
- a. organize conferences, workshops and seminars geared towards the actualization of the policy;
 - b. collaborate with other associations and agencies for the purpose of training and retraining of teachers of Nigerian languages;
 - c. conduct advocacy for the Nigerian languages and the Policy; and
 - d. support the development of Nigerian and foreign languages by providing expertise in training and development.
186. Teacher training institutions, regulatory agencies and Departments of Linguistics and Languages in tertiary institutions shall:
- a. organize conferences, workshops and seminars in Nigerian and foreign languages;
 - b. be responsible for the pre-service training for teachers of Nigerian and foreign languages;
 - c. conduct advocacy and sensitization programmes for various Nigerian languages;
 - d. research into the status and use of various Nigerian and

- foreign languages;
- e. be responsible for the certification and quality control of teachers of Nigerian and foreign languages; and
 - f. develop a database on the various aspects of Nigerian languages.
187. Broadcast organisations and their regulatory bodies shall ensure that broadcasting at the national and State levels comply with the provisions of this policy.
188. Nigerian Tertiary institutions shall:
- a. encourage the development and production of ICT facilities, applications such as Human Language Technology (HLT), Natural Language Processing (NLp) and Computational Linguistics (CL), etc. that address Nigerian language needs.
 - b. Conduct research and develop capacity in Robot Interaction Language (ROILA);
 - c. Develop artificial language and capacity to transform traditional narratives into cartoons and diverse science motifs based on Nigeria languages for media, entertainment, science, fiction and security.
189. Federal and State Ministries of Information and Culture shall oversee the implementation of language policy provisions in the various sub-sectors within their domains.
190. Agencies and parastatals under the Federal and State Ministries of Information and Culture, in line with their statutory mandates, shall carry out relevant activities relating to language use and promotion in their areas of operation.
191. National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB) shall regulate, monitor and track activities in the film and entertainment industry to ensure compliance with the provisions of the NLP.

192. Security agencies shall incorporate the provisions of the NLP into all training programmes and policies.
193. The National Judicial Institute and other relevant judicial training agencies shall collaborate with institutions responsible for language development and learning to train Judges, Magistrates and Interpreters in the Nigerian languages used within their respective judicial provinces.
194. NERDC in collaboration with other relevant bodies shall develop curricula for short-term courses in Nigerian languages that will meet the language needs of security agencies, legislature and the judiciary.
195. Relevant government agencies and Nigerian language departments in tertiary institutions shall provide relevant training for town planners on the use and appropriate rendition of essential town planning terms and concepts in Nigerian languages.
196. English and Nigerian languages shall be the media for providing healthcare services all over the country.
197. With regard to commerce, trade, investments and financial sector of the economy, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Federal Ministry of Finance shall be pivotal in ensuring the implementation and adherence to the tenets of the policy by all stakeholders.
198. The Ministry of Trade and Investment and all stakeholders in the financial, commerce, trade and investments sector shall ensure the inclusion of the National Language Policy provisions in their overall corporate policy, and also ensure a comprehensive implementation of this policy in all their areas of coverage.
199. Funding and Donor Agencies shall:
 - a. assist in the provision of required funding in the

- development of Nigerian languages; and
- b. synergize with relevant government agencies and language associations for the production of teaching and learning resources, as well as the training of Nigeria and foreign language teachers.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERMS	MEANINGS
Adaptive Indicators	Flexible pointers to effective implementation of the National Language Policy (NLP).
Area of Jurisdiction	An area with a set of laws under the control of courts or government entity, e.g. a Local Government or a State in Nigeria or Nigeria itself.
Basic Education	This is the education given to children aged 5-15 year in Nigeria. It comprises 1 year pre-primary education, 6 years of primary education and 3 years of junior secondary education.
Big data	Extremely large data sets that may be analysed computationally to reveal patterns, trends and associations, especially relating to human behaviour and interactions.
Bilingual	One who speaks and understands two languages.
Bilingualism	The ability to speak and understand two languages.
Codification	Part of language standardization process which involves the use and acceptance of norms, rules and principles of writing the language
Computational Linguistics (CL):	A branch of language study that is focused on the interactions between language and the computer.

TERMS	MEANINGS
Conventional Media:	Mass communication forms before the advent of internet e.g. newspapers, posters, radio and television services
Corporate Policy	A set of guidelines for the day-to-day-operations of an organisation.
Corpus Planning	A deliberate effort to modify a language in terms of grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc.
Database	A body of organised information.
Domain-Sensitive Model	A language model that stipulates policy guidelines for language use in specified areas.
Familiar Language Medium (FLM)	A medium of communication which is known to a group of people.
Foreign Language	A language that is not indigenous to Nigeria e.g. English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, etc.
Immersion Programme	A course of study designed to expose language learners to native speaker environment.
Integrated Language Approach	An approach to language teaching and learning that encourages the development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.
Language Attitude	Opinions, ideas, perceptions and judgments that people have about a specific language or language varieties.
Language Competence (LC)	The knowledge of the principles and rules governing the language of a speaker.

TERMS	MEANINGS
Language Documentation	A subfield of linguistics that provides a comprehensive record of the linguistic practices of a given speech community.
Language Endangerment	A situation where a language is under threat of extinction.
Language Extinction	A situation where a language no longer has speakers.
Language of Instruction	Language used for teaching and learning.
Language of the Immediate Community (LIC)	A dominant language that is used and spoken in an area or community.
Language of Wider Communication (LWC)	A language used across ethnic or cultural lines.
Language Planning	A process of regulating the use, status and functions of a language or languages through a policy.
Language Survey	The systematic process of collecting information on languages including the language users and language use.
Language Utility	The use of a language for various purposes in a society.
Language-in-Education Model	Model that focuses on provisions that regulate language use in education at all levels.
Lingua Franca	A common language for intergroup communication by speakers of different languages.

TERMS	MEANINGS
Linguistic Divergence	Differences that exist between languages.
Linguistic Diversity/ Heterogeneity	A situation where different languages co-exist in a society.
Linguistic Homogeneity	A situation where only one language exists in a society.
Linguistic Needs Assessment	Evaluation of different language requirements of a society.
Mass literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education	This is the equivalent of basic education given to adults and youths outside the formal school system.
Meta-language	A set of terms used for the description or analysis of languages.
Monolingual	One who speaks and understands only one language.
Mother Tongue (MT)	This is the language of one's ethnic group. It may also be the first language.
Multilingual	A situation in which many languages are used in a society by individuals or groups of people.
Multilingual Approach	Inclusive approach in which multiple languages can be learnt or used.
Nigerian Language	This is a language that is indigenous to Nigerians.
Nomadic Education	The first six years of Basic Education provided to the children of the nomads. Nomads in Nigeria are classified into three groups namely: (i) the nomadic pastoralists;

TERMS	MEANINGS
	(ii) the migrant fisher folks; and (iii) the migrant farmers.
Official Language (OL)	A language used by a country for official purposes e.g. English Language is Nigeria's official language.
Orthography	The conventional system of writing a language.
Performance Implementation Framework	A document that outlines strategies for policy implementation.
Pluralistic Society	A society where people of different languages, cultures and identities co-exist.
Post-Basic Education	The education children receive after a successful completion of ten years of Basic Education. It includes: (i) senior secondary education, (ii) higher education; and (iii) continuing education given in Vocational Enterprise Institutions (VEIs).
Pragmatics	A branch of linguistics that deals with language in use and the context in which it is used.
Prestige Planning Model	A model that boosts the status or role of languages in the society.
Robot Interaction Language (ROILA)	A language developed for interacting with robots.
Sign Language (SL)	A language that adopts visual signs and gestures as medium of communication.

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Sociolinguistic Survey	Identification of languages and varieties, their functions in specific domains as well as the values attached to them by the society.
Sociolinguistics	A branch of linguistics that studies the connection between language and society and the way people use language in different social situations.
Standardization	The process of formally establishing and maintaining conventional forms of language. This is usually through a prescriptive process.
Status Planning	A deliberate effort to modify the social roles of a language and raise its status to perform certain functions.
Tertiary Education	The education given after Post-Basic Education in institutions such as Universities and Inter-University Centres such as the Nigeria French Language Village, Nigeria Arabic Language Village, National Institute of Nigerian Languages, institutions such as Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs), and Colleges of Education, Nigerian Languages, institutions such as Innovation Monotechnics, Polytechnics, and other specialized institutions such as Colleges of Agriculture, School of Health and Technology and National Teachers' Institute (NTI)
Language vitality	The extent to which a language is actively used or functions in different domains.

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