



A report of the Nigerian Schools Sports and Family Fun Day Education Seminar

Education Needs of the Next Generation of Nigerians

Bainbridge room, Queen Mary University of London

Saturday 7th June 2014,

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Introduction

- ▶ NSSFF was established in April 2012 as a pilot using the London Olympic Games as the backdrop. Its mission is to increase the awareness of the importance of education in Nigeria. It is a platform, for alumni branches of Nigerian Secondary Schools based in the U.K (or associations with Nigerian connection), to showcase important work being done
- ▶ In June 2014, NSSFF held its first Education seminar in London. The day was well attended with over 75 delegates from 15 schools and guests. Member schools had the chance to showcase the work they were doing with their schools back in Nigeria.
- ▶ Princess Deun Adedoyin-Solarin chaired the occasion . Distinguished speakers included Cllr Adedamola Aminu.
- ▶ The keynote address was titled **Developing a set of working principles for educational development in Nigeria.**
- ▶ Participants deliberated passionately on the “Education Needs of the Next Generation of Nigerians”.
- ▶ Delegates had the opportunity of using a 5 year road implementation map to outline actions needed to improve Education in Nigeria
- ▶ The event was also streamed live to a global audience.

Developing a set of working principles for educational development in Nigeria
Key note address



- ▶ Teach our students how to comprehend the interconnectedness of environmental, financial, social, and other systems, and understand how the relative balance of power between societies and cultures has significant short-and long-term consequences?
- ▶ Work in partnership in order to better inform policy development, implementation and evaluation.
- ▶ Set up 'Centres of Excellence' in some of our schools in order to support one another and critically interrogate and share good practice. Establishing a Professional Learning Community amongst groups of schools thereby establishing sustainable models of professional development within and across schools.
- ▶ Partnering with Parents and students, missions, school governors, governments, unions, tertiary institutions, business community, subject associations, charities, and others – to help change an educational system for the better, and not just individual institutions.

Mr Oke Eleaye,
Head of Science & Education Consultant

Private Schools and Social Enterprise: Are these a stop gap, a panacea or a sustainable evolution of our education system in Nigeria"?



- ▶ The Nigerian education system requires a combination of state, private schools, charitable, corporate and religious organisations/institutions to provide a range of educational opportunities to Nigerian citizens.
- ▶ A significant number of state schools are understaffed due to low state budgets, lack of decent infrastructure, lack of incentives and irregularities in payment of staff salaries unlike most private (independent) schools.
- ▶ Some state-owned secondary schools are regarded as elite colleges because of the historically high educational standard and producing alumni who may have prominent citizens in various careers and subsequently provide financial support to these schools.
- ▶ I hope it is widely agreed that education is the most effective means that society possesses for confronting the challenges of the future. I would argue that progress in Nigeria increasingly depends upon the products of educated minds through a plural range (panacea) of education providers including private schools set up by corporate business.

Mr Ajibola Awogboro
Director Rembola

Obligations of Nigerian Education Institutions



Today with a growing population of over 168 million, the obligations of Educational institutions, responsible for providing welfare ,education & training for the next generation of Nigerians should be a primary consideration.

Access to free education is not guaranteed despite the 2005 Act . Clear and basic information in many public and private education institutions is not freely available despite Nigeria having extensive legislation at Federal and State levels. Confirmation of the quality that the Educational institution provides is not easily determined or guaranteed. Apart from exam results , standards of deliverance, provision and testing of equipment and training, has no prescribed uniform legal standard across Nigeria and is only checked through registration with the administrative bodies and infrequent inspections..

Proposals on the way forward:

a). Review of legislation b). Uniform application of standards of education at primary secondary and vocational institutions and across Nigeria at State level c). Investment in training and resources d). Accountability and sanctions against failing states and institutions e. Inspections and reporting to be carried out frequently

Jennifer Obaseki ,
Snr partner, Obaseki solicitors

The Role of Diaspora in Support of Education in Nigeria?



Advocacy for and on behalf of Nigeria

Nigerians living in the Diaspora can act as role models. Some of us who occupy strategic positions in educational or political establishment can also be useful and effective advocates for Nigeria. Through building partnerships with key stakeholders and lobbying as well as incisive research on topical Nigerian issues especially on education policies, formation of Diaspora “think tanks” can play a crucial role in influencing the policy debate in our host countries on a range of issues of interest to Nigeria.

Expanding Educational Opportunities

Government need to enable professionals from the Diaspora that wish to participate in the expansion of education in Nigeria to do so, such as joint private investment / ownership of schools including supporting efforts by the host countries. To promote distance Learning, Diaspora institutions with access to technology would be encouraged to collaborate in distance learning programs with Nigerian partners.

Finally

Diaspora has a unique window of opportunity to contribute to the economic, social and political development of Nigeria. The challenge is to take advantage of these opportunities. The Diaspora needs to be proactive, effective and organized in order to make a difference.

Clr Adedamola Aminu,
Worshipful Mayor of Lambeth

Buzz group topics

1. Is the current education system in Nigeria fit for the 21st century- are Nigerian youths adequately prepared for the 21st century?-
2. How can the education sector contribute towards the aspiration to make Nigeria a top 20 economy?
3. Is a Quality Education affordable to all in Nigeria today?
4. Does the Education system in Nigeria cater for all?
5. Is the present educational system a reflection of our present policy

Buzz sessions followed the plenary sessions,. All participants picked a topic and joined the buzz group discussing it. The 3 main points were fed back to the main group and the suggested actions- immediate, short term and long term -were added to the implementation plan.

A Buzz group at the event



Group having a discussion facilitated by Princess Deun and Councillor Adedamola

Feedback from Education Seminar Buzz Groups: Implementation Road Map

Topic	Action to be taken: Now	In the next 3 years	In the next 5 years
1) Is the current education system in Nigeria fit for the 21st century- are Nigerian youths adequately prepared for the 21st century? Lead :Oke Eleyae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing attitudes and values Develop workable partnerships Allocate a budget amount per student Alumni working with existing PTA or a quality improvement team Identify role models and work on changing status quo mind set Look at the quality of the existing model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct funding to preschool and primary education Change mind-sets from an early age Agree the specifications/expectations of an Education system 	
2) How can the education sector contribute towards the aspiration to make Nigeria a top 20 economy? Lead Anne –Funmi Fatusin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to lobby to Reintroduce teacher training Look at teacher appointments Start the mapping/ conversation about a federal education policy Start the mapping/conversation about monitoring quality and performance in schools Bench mark and identify good practice and working models in other MIND countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and ensure system of CPD exists for teachers Introduce penalties for failing schools Transparency about budget allocation for Education 	
3)/4) Is a Quality Education affordable to all in Nigeria today? Lead : Ajibola Awogboro and Chalres Obazuaye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby and change Govt mind set to view education as a worthwhile investment for all Raise awareness in parents that they can make non financial contribution to their children school and education Identify current existing standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and understand current rules around tax and encourage companies to invest in schools and be given tax breaks Explore Education tax Understand current arrangements around teacher remuneration and scope how could be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twining –private schools to work with state schools Apply a unit cost per child- workout what that is – develop a policy to support
5) Is the present educational system a reflection of our present policy- Lead:The Honourable the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal intervention e.g sharing of good practice among OSA Establish a national body of retired education senior managers who can provide mentorship Raise awareness and understanding of existing education policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alumni to get involved in school development Scope private investment Establish a mobile library Scope empowerment to teachers- what will it look like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share best practice Private investment and involvement

Summary of the recommended actions

Now	In the next 3 years	In the next 5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Providing consistent support to other Alumni ✓ Mapping existing policies, protocols ✓ Identify good practice and share ✓ Raise awareness of need to intervene by Alumni and school associations- write a paper and share with other Nigerian school association across the globe ✓ Identify potential partners ✓ Identify a champion and opinion leader ✓ Develop a blog focussing on Education matters ✓ Work with an Education charity working in Nigeria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage discussion around arrangements around teacher remuneration and national fiscal policy fully understood, ✓ Work towards National body of retired senior education leads established ✓ NSSFF continue to have an influencing role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clear twinning policies developed across all Alumni schools in NSSFF ✓ Education Charity monitoring body established ✓ NSSFF involved in full partnership working

BNET work to date



The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust
*Promoting friendship & understanding through financial support
for Nigerian education*

- Tim Cooke from BNET briefly outlined the invaluable work done over the years in Nigeria.
- Areas covered included (a) acting as legal Trustee for a £1Million pounds donation to two specified secondary school beneficiaries, (b) working on projects to improve teaching standards, (c)access to education by girls and (4) mobile IT vehicle.
- He stated that he hoped BNET and NSSFF could work in partnership in areas of mutual interest.

Mr Tim Cooke
BNET

Evaluation

- Thirty five of the seventy five delegates completed evaluation sheets
- 27 out of 35 rated the event as good/ very good
- 32 out of 35 felt that event achieved/ mostly achieved its aims and objectives
- 26 out of 35 would definitely recommend the event to their friends

TOPICS SUGGESTED FOR FUTURE EVENTS

- Corruption and moral decay
 - The electoral and changing political climate
 - Practical ways to invest in Nigeria
 - Volunteering opportunities in Nigeria
 - Nigerian schools in an informatics age
 - Revolutionise Nigeria's literacy achievements
 - Library provision
 - Transportation system
 - Health Reform
- Feedback was also received from the global audience during the live streaming :
- "Nice one guys Streaming I saw was good May God continue to empower you all"

Programme of the day

Venue: The Bainbridge Room, 2nd floor Robin Brook Centre ,Queen Mary, University of London, West Smithfield Campus, by St Barts Hospital, EC1A 7BE

10.00 – 10.30 Registration and coffee

10.30 – 10.45 Chair's opening remarks Princess 'Deun Adedoyin-Solarin, Broadcaster & Media Consultant

10.45 – 11.15 Alumni associations – Showcase their work – Alumni Reps,

11.15 – 11.45 Key note address – Developing a set of working principles for educational development in Nigeria.

Oke Eleyae, Head of Science and a Lead Practitioner for Science and Gifted and Talented education in Waltham Forest,

11:45–12:00 Coffee break

12.00 – 12.15 The Role of Diaspora in Support of Education in Nigeria? Cllr Adedamola Aminu, the Deputy Mayor of Lambeth, the Chairman of Association of British–Nigerian Councillors and President of Association of Nigerian Academics UK

12.15 – 12.30 Private schools and Social Enterprise in Nigeria – A stop gap, a panacea or a sustainable evolution of our education system? Ajibola Awogboro, management professional

12.30 – 12:45 Obligations of Educational Institutions Jennifer Obaseki, Senior Partner Obaseki & Co Solicitors

12:45–12:50 Setting the scene for the buzz groups

12.50 – 13.30 Lunch and networking

13.30–13.35 Introduction to afternoon session – Princess Deun

13.35 – 13.45 The Britain–Nigeria Educational Trust, BNET, our vision and aims– tbc Trustee

13:45–15:15 Buzz work groups

- Is the current education system in Nigeria fit for the 21st century– are Nigerian youths adequately prepared for the 21st century?
- How can the education sector contribute towards the aspiration to make Nigeria a top 20 economy?
- Is a quality education affordable to all in Nigeria today?
- Does the education system in Nigeria cater for all?
- Does the present educational work force in Nigeria have the capacity to deliver sustainable educational excellence?

15:15–15:30 Feedback from buzz groups

15.30 – 15.45 Launch NSSFF Sports Day 2014 –Carnival weekend –Saturday, 23rd August 2014

Team NSSFF, Questions and comments from the floor

15.45 – 16.00 Chair's thanks and closing remarks–NSSFF Chair

Biography



Mr Babarinde is the President of the UK Alumni Association of Comprehensive High School Aiyetoro (Compronians UK) and also the current Chair of the Nigerian Schools Sports and Family Fun Day (NSSF) FBimbo Babarinde is an architect with over 30 years experience in the Building Industry in Nigeria and the UK.



Mr Oke Eleyae (MSc, PGCE, CLT, FCoT, MCoLLT.) is a member of his school's Senior Leadership Team, a Chartered London Teacher, and a fellow and member of the College of Teachers. Oke has been in secondary education for the last 18 years. He is currently a Specialist Leader in Education. Oke has also worked as an educational consultant and trainer for various programmes abroad, including a programme sponsored by Shell Oil company



Cllr Adedamola Aminu is currently the Deputy Mayor of London Borough of Lambeth and former Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and young People; He is a Director of AA Management Training and Consultancy Ltd, a lecturer, school governor for various schools, and Trustee for various charitable organisations. Cllr Aminu is the chairman of Association British-Nigerian Councillors in the UK and President of Association of Nigerian Academics UK.



Ms Jennifer Obaseki is a solicitor with over 20 years legal experience Senior partner and Director at Obaseki solicitors. Her qualifications include BA Law & Economics. LPC & PSC courses from College of Law London. She has experience in the High Court Chancery, Maritime Court and Family divisions. Ms Obaseki is an expert in Human Rights Law, Civil and Criminal Litigation. She is interested in a quality Education in Nigeria

Mr Ajibola Awogboro: BSc (Hons), Dip SW, PG Dip, MA, MBA A competent and experienced management professional with over 20 years' experience within governmental and non-governmental organisations in the UK and West Africa. He is currently involved in an Education project in Nigeria



Princess 'Deun Adedoyin-Solarin

Multiple Award Winning Broadcaster & Media Personality Operational Director, Communications & Media –GWIIN, Creator & Owner of The Arize!™ Brand , Producer/Talk Show Host -'Princess of Arize!' BEN TV Sky 184 Member ToastMasters International, Intellectual Property Specialist | Broadcaster | Media Consultant



Guest Speaker and Sponsor

The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust was formerly known as The Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Memorial Trust. BNET is committed, through its endeavours, to increase the level of support for education of Nigerians which is a vital component in the success and development of the country.



The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust

Promoting friendship & understanding through financial support for Nigerian education

Alumni present

- ▶ Abeokuta Grammar School
- ▶ Anwar-UI-Islam College “formerly Ahmaddiyya College”
- ▶ Baptist Academy
- ▶ Birch Freeman High School
- ▶ Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro
- ▶ Federal Government College Sokoto
- ▶ Federal Government Girl's College ,Bida,
- ▶ Federal Government College, Ilorin
- ▶ Government College Ikorodu
- ▶ Holy Child College (Old Girls) UK
- ▶ Igbobi College
- ▶ Queens College Lagos
- ▶ Reagan Memorial Baptist Girls Secondary School
- ▶ Russian Colleges (Nigerian Students UK)-
- ▶ St Gregory's College Old Boys Association

Acknowledgements

NSSFF remains grateful to our supporters, seminar organisers, speakers , and of course, all the participants at the event

Sponsors

Britain-Nigeria Education Trust(BNET), Obaseki Solicitors, Olu-Olu Foods, Anonymous donor

**For information about NSSFF please contact
Mr Wole Sanwo on info@nssff.o.uk**