

Two Training for Teachers Take Off Soon

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The National Teachers' Institute (NTI) is to organize two teacher training programmes soon for primary school teachers nationwide, its Director-General & Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Patrick Ndubuisi Onyekwere announced yesterday in Kaduna.

Speaking at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House when he paid a courtesy call on Governor Mhammad Namadi Sambo, the Director General said about 145,000 teachers would undergo training under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) project in education sector, while a Special Teacher Upgrading Programme (STUP) would provide serving Grade II teachers with a three year upgrading course to meet the National Certificate in Education (NCE) minimum teaching qualification in the country.

Onyekwere noted that the training programmes are part of the Federal Government's efforts to boost the quality of education in Nigeria.

He, however, noted that Kaduna State has the highest number of teachers in NTI programmes due to the importance attached to education in the state and commended Governor Namadi Sambo for maintaining top priority in the re-training scheme.

He sought for continued support and cooperation of the state government which he said has been instrumental to the success of the NTI and assured that the NTI would provide quality teacher training programmes enriched by its partnerships with international organizations such as UNESCO, British Council and the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), among others.

In his remarks, Governor Sambo congratulated the NTI Director-General and described the Institute as the main spine of educational programmes in the state due to its teacher training programmes.

He said there was no limitation to the top priority accorded education in the state, especially teacher training as it was recently discovered that more than half of the teachers in the state were unqualified to teach due to lack of required credentials.

The Governor assured that the state government would redouble its teacher training programmes, adding that special salary incentives and provision of accommodation in rural areas for teachers would be implemented in the states.

He also said NTI's contribution to the success of teacher training goals of the Kaduna State Government would be encouraged and expressed the state government's readiness to support NTI at all times.

It would be recalled that Governor Sambo has earmarked 27 per cent of the state's annual budget for education so as to improve education in the state.

He said that plans have been concluded to build two primary boarding schools in each of the three senatorial zones in the state.