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HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

(NOVEMBER 2005 – OCTOBER 2006)

The Governing Council of the National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna, was inaugurated along with other Councils of agencies of the Federal Ministry of Education in November 2005.

Membership of the Council comprised three members (including the Chairman) nominated by the Federal Government, representatives of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) and six State Commissioners of Education representing the six geo-political zones (on rotational basis). Since its inauguration, the Council has met several times to consider issues pertaining to the general policy and direction of the Institute, and also, provide guidance and attend to matters of strategic concern for current and future operations.

The highlights of major decisions and activities undertaken or currently on-going by the Council are set out below.

1.0 Setting an Agenda for the Institute

At its Inaugural meeting on 17th November 2005, Council reviewed the statutory mandate of the Institute as provided in the enabling Act vis-à-vis its performance over time, and set out a blueprint for the general restructuring and reform of the Institute in line with on going strategic public sector reforms of the Federal Government. Specifically, Council set out the following agenda for the Institute:

i)

To review and up-date the Institute's 2002-2006 Strategic Plan earlier developed by the immediate past Council.

ii) To refocus and consolidate the Institute's academic programmes in line with its mandate.

iii) To re-strategize and re-harness the Institute's programme delivery mechanisms and align them with the SERVICOM Charter.

iv) To mobilize, up-grade and broaden the Institute's ICT infrastructure to meet the emerging challenges of the ICT world. Council thus adopted Professor Koul's Report on the Institute's ICT strategies commissioned and sponsored by Commonwealth of Learning (COL).

v) To consolidate and expand the Institute's linkages and

collaborations with International Agencies and Institutions.

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vi) To achieve an optimal staffing position through rightsizing and other appropriate and well designed personnel management policies.

vii) Review the organizational structure of the Institute in line with new service charter, to make it more responsive to stakeholder needs and better Service Delivery.

viii) Identify and explore other areas of revenue generation and funding for the Institute to meet rising obligations in the face of dwindling resources.

ix) Explore all areas critical to enhancing teacher education in the country.

x) To follow-up licensing for NTI FM Radio with the Presidency.

2.0 Reforms and Re-structuring of the Institute

The Council from onset was committed to implementing reforms, particularly in areas of clear defects in operational and policy issues. It was also determined to fully implement the on going Public Sector Reforms of this Administration. Accordingly, Council considered and implemented the monetization policy under the Federal Government Guidelines for Implementation of Transitional Arrangements for Public Service Reform. The following category of staff were thus disengaged:

i)

6 Nos. Drivers

ii) 7 nos. Domestic Staff, Cooks, Stewards, etc.

iii) 38 Nos. Gardeners, Labourers and Cleaners

iv) 176 Nos. Security, Watchmen, Guards.

All vehicles affected by monetization policy were subsequently auctioned through Government licensed Auctioneers following Due Process.

3.0 Public Service Reforms

In line with requirements and provisions of the reform document, Council implemented Government directive on Public Service Reforms as communicated by the ministry. The Institute's **Reform Implementation Committee (RIC)** was constituted with the following membership:

i)

Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman

Chairman

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ii) Dr. Ahmed M. Mohammed
Member

Director & Chief Executive

iii) Senator A. H. Girei
Member

Council Member

iv) Mrs. J. Namo
Member

Council Member

v) Dr. Abdurrahman Umar
Member

Director, Academic Services

vi) Prof. Adeyanju
Member

vii) Prof. George Kwanashie
Member

viii) M. D. Yusuf
Member/

Registrar, NTI
Secretary

The RIC constituted the following three Sub-Committees to handle the various aspects of the reform:

a) Committee on Personnel Record and Payroll Audit

b) Committee on Strategic Planning

c) Committee on Assets and Financing

All of the Committees have concluded their assignment which has also been reviewed and approved by the main committee (the RIC). The Report is now ready for submission to the honourable minister.

4.0 International Linkages and donor funding

A major priority the Council set out for itself is the review and identification of additional revenue sources and funding from both local and international funding agencies. Council has initiated contacts with some major funding organizations like the Partnership for Education in Africa coordinated by Ms Lisbeth Levy of New York University. Discussions are also on-going with similar Agencies in sourcing funds for the Institute's special projects like the ICT infrastructure development.

Council is also discussing with some Institutions in the United States with a view to identifying possible areas of co-operation. We are currently exploring all areas for opportunities that will expand and broaden the Institute's services to stakeholders in the country. Discussions have also progressed with the Texas Read Commission and similar Institutions for collaboration in identified mutually beneficial areas.

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5.0 Improving the quality of NTI Distance Learning Programme

Council, having recognized that a basic requirement for an efficient and effective distance learning programme is the availability of quality and standard course materials to the students, directed and ensured prompt and timely delivery of all course materials to its over 260,000 students nationwide. Since the coming of the present Council it has ensured and promptly attended to all issues pertaining to Distance Learning materials for students.

6.0 Re-structuring and Re-positioning of the NTI Press

Council, after reviewing the operations and performance of the NTI Press decided to re-structure and re-position it in line with current government policy on such establishments. The NTI Press has remained a major source for concern to both Council and management as it continued to drain the scarce resources available to the Institute. Council disengaged 13 staff of the NTI Press from the services of the Institute, and constituted a Committee of Council to study the operations and performance of the Press, and recommend action to be taken in re-positioning it.

The Committee has finished its assignment and submitted its Report to Council at its last meeting held on Thursday, 5th October, 2006. Council accepted the recommendations for implementation.

7.0 Human Resource Development

Human Resource planning and development is a fundamental pre-requisite for success. Council has long recognized and accepted this for the Institute. Council also believed that a well trained and motivated work force is an efficient tool in fast tracking success. As a practical demonstration of this, it approved the promotion of 10 senior staff to various Grade Levels with effect from 1st January 2004 and financially with effect from 1st January 2005, and 11 others with effect from 1st

January 2005.

Council also considered and approved the dismissal of two staff found to have been involved in fraud and misappropriation of Institute's funds, and referred their case to Commissioner of Police in Sokoto State, where the fraud was committed for prosecution.

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8.0 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Project: The Re-training of 145,000 School Teachers across the country

The Institute was mandated under the 2006 Millennium Development Goals Project to re-train 145,000 school teachers nationwide. The Workshops covered four core primary school subjects (Mathematics, English Language, Science and Social Science), School-Based Assessment, Improvisation of Instructional Materials, and Basic Computer Skills. They were conducted in 147 selected and equipped training centres in the 36 States and the FCT. All participants were sensitized on the new 9-year Basic Education Curricula.

The Workshops were conducted in the six geo-political zones as follows:

a) North-West & South-East Zones -

4th – 9th September

b) North-Central & South-South

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11th – 16th September

c) North-East & South-West Zones -

18th – 23rd September

Council monitored and ensured strict compliance in the implementation of this project, and overall, it has been adjudged a complete success.

Both Council and Management had expressed gratitude to all, particularly our major stakeholders whose contributions in making this a success are invaluable as they are unquantifiable. To all, the Institute owes its success in this project.

Yusuf Alhaji Suleiman

Chairman, Governing Council