

COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF A 2-DAY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON MORAL REGENERATION AND REORIENTATION IN BASIC EDUCATION

Preamble

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) held a 2-Day Stakeholder Workshop on **Moral Regeneration and Reorientation in Basic Education**. The event held on the 28th and 29th of March 2023 at the Exclusive Serene Hotel and Suites, Wuye, Abuja, Nigeria. The workshop was a significant gathering of policymakers, educators, civil society organizations (CSOs), and education-related faith-based organizations (FBOs) who gathered to discuss strategies for promoting moral values in basic education.

The workshop, which was declared open by the Executive Secretary of UBEC, Dr Hamid Bobboyi, featured welcome remarks by the Host Director, Teacher Development, Mr Olumayowa Aleshin, and the Chairman, Committee on Moral Education, Bishop Edwin Jarumai. Present were the UBEC Management Team, UBEC Zonal Directors, SUBEB Zonal Directors, representatives of the ICPC, EFCC, NAPTIP, NCWS, NOA, Faith-Based Organisation, NGOs, Schools, the academia, PTA Representatives and the Keynote Speaker, Professor Soji Oni of the University of Lagos, among others.

The workshop provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders to engage in insightful discussions on ways to integrate moral values into basic education. The presentation of the Keynote Speaker, Professor Soji Oni, titled “*Moral Regeneration and Reorientation in Nigeria Basic Education: The Role of Stakeholders*” was very insightful. The presentation succinctly addressed the workshop's theme on the significance of moral values in education, as well as the crucial role of stakeholders in promoting moral regeneration and reorientation in basic education. Key strategies and valuable insights on fostering a culture of morality and ethics in education, capable of achieving the workshop's objectives were highlighted.

The workshop also featured breakout sessions, where participants had the opportunity to delve deeper into topical issues, followed by presentation of group work, shared experiences and best practices.

Through various presentations and discussions, some relevant concepts were carefully defined and explained during the workshop for a better understanding. These include: *Moral values, Morality, Character, Learning outcomes, Re-orientation, and Regeneration*

Observations

The major observations identified by the workshop include:

1. Some of the root causes of moral decadence are:
 - a. parental negligence;
 - b. the growing negative influence of peer groups, mainstream media, social media, pop culture, as well as negative social influencers/celebrities;
 - c. decline in religious teachings.
 - d. quest for materialism.
 - e. drug abuse;
 - f. poor economy, political instability, corruption and greed in leadership and governance;
 - g. exposure to immoral and unethical behaviours; and

- h. ineffective law enforcement agencies;
 - i. prevalent deteriorated societal values, amongst other
2. National Core Values such as discipline, integrity, dignity of labour, social justice, religious tolerance, self-reliance, patriotism as entrenched in Section 23 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria have not been properly disseminated to the citizenry.
 3. Moral education is already included in the curriculum, howbeit, it can be improved upon.
 4. The following Individuals/Institutions play strategic roles in moral reorientation and regeneration
 - i. Basic education learners, Schools, Teachers, School Leaders and Educational managers, School Based Management Committee (SBMC), Private School Owners (PSOs)
 - ii. Parents, Caregivers, National Parents-Teachers Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN), Community leaders
 - iii. Ministries, Departments and Agencies at both Federal and State levels, such as; Ministries of Education; Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Information and Youth Affairs; Local Education Authorities, National Orientation Agency (NOA), National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), National Council for Women Societies (NCWS); Association for Universal Moral Education in Nigeria (AUMEN)
 - iv. Civil Society Organizations
 - v. Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)
 - vi. Development Partners such as International Non-governmental Organisations (iNGOs), UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children etc.
 - vii. Religious and community leaders.
 - viii. Faith-based organizations
 - ix. Other relevant stakeholders in the Basic Education Subsector.

Recommendations

In view of the foregoing, after in-depth deliberations, the recommendations which focused on five major stakeholders, namely, the family, school, government, religious bodies and the media are that:

- i. There should be a renewal of the synergy between the family, schools, government, religious bodies, media and other stakeholders in addressing moral decadence in the society.
- ii. Families should be engaged in reorientation programmes where intending couples will be intimated on their roles in child upbringing.
- iii. Community-based organizations should ensure proper family engagement on moral regeneration with their immediate environment.
- iv. Moral character education should be infused into the school curriculum.
- v. The school and parents should collaborate with emphasis on moral regeneration.
- vi. That there is need for reorientation of all the major stakeholders in the school setting, such as; teaching, non-teaching staff and learners through training and awareness programmes for moral character development.

- vii. Such resources as: character building curriculum, teaching guides, books for storytelling be provided for use in schools.
- viii. School policies should reflect moral character standard, and strengthen special programmes, such as integrity club and other co-curricular activities.
- ix. Government should collaborate with several agencies like the National Orientation Agency, Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, State Universal Basic Education Board among others to create massive awareness and sensitization programmes for moral regeneration.
- x. Government should put in place policies which ensure that private schools are included in all school-based moral character-building programmes.
- xi. Government should put in place a mechanism for the evaluation and sustainability of all moral regeneration programmes in both public and private schools.
- xii. Non-governmental organizations should take moral regeneration campaigns to the grassroots, market places, farmlands, traditional rulers and others in the village settings.
- xiii. Government through the Ministry of Education, UBEC and SUBEB should provide capacity-building courses on moral regeneration for community leaders, Imams, pastors etc.
- xiv. Parental education programmes, character education and moral instructions for children and teenagers should be infused into activities of SUBEBs and SBMCs
- xv. Government should restrict uncensored social media content by underaged users.
- xvi. Only refined celebrities and social media influencers should be engaged in creating and displaying contents of high moral standard.
- xvii. UBEC should enhance the need for a focused collaboration with NGOs and CSOs on advocacy and enlightenment against all forms of social vices.
- xviii. Such documents as the Child Rights Act and Digital Citizenship Education should be domesticated.

Conclusion

At the end of the workshop, participants applauded the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) for the laudable initiative of convening the Stakeholders Workshop. The Workshop was also observed to be a right step in the right direction, especially in this era of moral decadence in our society. We are confident that the Communique will serve as a roadmap for promoting moral regeneration and reorientation in basic education in Nigeria. UBEC expressed appreciation to all participants for their active engagement, and the Commission looks forward to continued collaboration and partnerships towards creating a more ethical and values-driven basic education in Nigeria.

COMMUNIQUE MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Adenike Emeke- Chairperson | 10. Mrs. Lily Oriero-Oviemuno |
| 2. Prof. Adesoji Oni | Oreighe- Secretary 2 |
| 3. Prof. Aisha Abdul-Ismael | |
| 4. Mrs. Ethel Ifeyinwa Ojimba | |
| 5. Sr. (Dr.) Mary-Jude Therese Nwodo | |
| 6. Mr. Elias Durosinmi | |
| 7. Mrs. Eniola Olajobi | |
| 8. Mrs. Rafiah Idowu Sanni | |
| 9. Mr. Samuel Oladipo- Secretary 1 | |