

NTI NEWS BULLETIN
MARCH – APRIL 2020 BI-MONTHLY
EDITION

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- My desire is to leave NTI as best Teacher Education Institution in the world... Says Prof. Azare: Page 1
- Registrar reiterates resolution on closure of NTI Study Centres Nationwide: Page 3
- VC University of London Commends NTI, NUC: Page 4
- Prof. Azare reiterates NTI's Commitment to partner with FCE Zaria: Page 5
- DG frowns at Coordinators, others extorting students: Page 7
- Only staff that falls short of required standards miss promotion: Page 9
- NYSC Batch A 2019 honours Durodola, Hannatu: Page 10
- The Impact of Covid-19 on Educational Institutions in Nigeria: Page 11
- Dr. Patrick Ndubuisi Onyekwere laid to rest: Page 12

MY DESIRE IS TO LEAVE NTI AS THE BEST TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THE WORLD---Says Prof. Azare



Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare
Director-General/Chief Executive NTI

Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare, the NTI Director-General /Chief Executive has said that his desire is to leave the Institute better, stronger and well sought as the best Teacher Education Institution in the world.

He made the disclosure during the opening ceremony of a two-day NTI SERVICOM Workshop titled: **“Building and Sustaining Culture of Service Excellence in NTI For Frontline Staff and SERVICOM Committee Members,”** held between March 11 and 12 at the SMASE Complex of the Institute.

According to him, what made NTI to excel was adopting best practices by involving staff, university professors and current staff in developing assessment tools for evaluating staff performance.

“This practice was cherished and commended at an international conference organised by e-learning universities in Malaysia.

“The manpower needs to be retrained most often to ensure that the goals of the organisation is maintained, hence the SERVICOM training workshop for frontline and SERVICOM committee members,” he said.

The DG/CE reiterated that staff efficiency and dedication to work is the key to the success and achievement of every institution or organisation pointing out the impossibility of succeeding without equipping staff with certain knowledge.

“Let me express the hope, that this workshop will enhance the professional skills of the participants that will enable them achieve service excellence while pursuing the Institute’s mandate,” he said.

Prof. Azare however, gave assurance that the workshop would be cascaded for all our 43 Focal Officers and would be done at NTI zonal levels.

He mentioned that since his assumption of office, Mal. Mahmud Muhammed Usman, the NTI Registrar and Secretary to Council has ensured that staff were posted to areas of their specialisation.

“Any staff not performing is doing that not because s/he has not been given the opportunity to perform,” he said.

He availed that other successes recorded since his assumption of office in August 2016, included the collection of 22,000 Degree certificates of the Institute’s former students from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

The DG/CE also mentioned that within the period under review, NTI collected for its

former students, 25,000 Post Graduate Diploma in Education certificates, from Usmanu Danfodiyo University (UDUS), Sokoto, which it’s affiliated to.

He mentioned that another feat recorded within the period included the establishment of a robust Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, where NTI staff access soft loans and other welfare packages.

“The Cooperative Society enabled the surrounding community to have an ATM Machine mounted at the Institute’s gate. This Machine is the only one after Jaji which is more than 56 kilometres away, until you reach Kawo, which another four kilometres away.

“We also have a vibrant staff union i.e. the Non-Academic Staff Union of Nigeria (NASU), which got revived on my assumption of office, ” he stated.

Earlier, Hajiya Fatima Ahmad Belgore, the Institute’s Director of Quality Assurance and ICT, had during the opening ceremony welcomed guests and participants to the workshop.

Belgore said she believed that at the end of the exercise, staff would have acquired skills that would expose them to a better relationship with the Institute’s clients and motivate them to efficiently, honestly, diligently and sincerely carry out their duties.

She availed that in 2019 alone, no fewer than 725 complaints were received by the NTI SERVICOM from 36 states and FCT , which border non-release of certificates ; omission of Teaching Practice and Project scores and correction of names.

“Over 550 of those complaints had been resolved and the remaining are being followed up by the SERVICOM Division to ensure that all complaints are resolved so as to put smile on the faces of the students.

“I am challenging all participants to take this workshop as a rare privilege and listen attentively with full participation. They should all be grateful to have this kind of Management with listening ear,” she said.

The Director charged the NTI SERVICOM Division to regularly monitor performances and take remedial actions as soon as there is any reported case of non-performance.

REGISTRAR REITERATES RESOLUTION ON CLOSURE OF NTI STUDY CENTRES NATIONWIDE



Mal. Mahmud Mohammed Usman, NTI Registrar and Secretary to Council

Mal. Mahmud Muhammed Usman, the NTI Registrar and Secretary to Council, has said

that the NTI Management had during its meeting on Wednesday March 25, strengthened its earlier directive to close Study Centres nationwide for an initial period of one month effective from March 23.

The meeting was sequel to the directive of the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation in Circular NO. HSCF/ 109/ S.1/1/100 dated March 23, 2020 titled : **“Compulsory stay at home of Non-Essential Public servants on GL 12 and Below as Further Measure to Curtail the Spread of COVID 19.”**

Usman made the disclosure in a Circular titled: **“Federal Government Directive to Public Servants To Curtail the Spread of CORVID 19,”** released on Wednesday, March 25, to all Staff at NTI Headquarters, Zonal, State and Liaison offices.

He said the resolve to close the centres was arrived at during an Expanded Meeting of NTI Management with Zonal/State Coordinators and other Directorate Staff held at the Headquarters on March 19-20.

“All State Coordinators must ensure that the directive is implemented at the Study Centre level forthwith via a written communication to the Centre Managers.

“All staff on CONRAISS 10 and below are to observe the compulsory stay at home order. However, officers on essential duties within the afore-stated grade levels are to be on duty at the directive of their Heads of Department or immediate supervising officers,” the Registrar said in the Circular.

According to him consequent to the aforesaid all officers on CONRAISS 11 and above were to report for duty even as he stressed that State Coordinators irrespective of their level belonged to that category.

He however, warned that the directive was to stay at home and not to be used as a period for travelling out of station saying: "any staff whose services are required in the office would be required to report immediately."

"It must be emphasised that observance of good personal hygiene through frequent washing of hands, usage of sanitisers, clean environment and social distancing , avoiding crowds among other measures must be imbibed by all.

"Security and Cleaners on casual appointments are to continue to perform their duties

"Staff who had contact with returnees from COVID 19 endemic countries as released by the Federal Government are to self-isolate for a period of 14 days," he said.

According to him, in such a case, the staff is advised to contact his/her Head in the office.

"Furthermore, in the event of exhibiting any of the symptoms of **COVID 19**, contact the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on Telephone 0800970000-1.

"While awaiting further directive of Government on the matter, I wish all staff God's protection," he concluded in the Circular.

VC University of London Commends NTI, NUC



Mal. Bashir Mamman NTI Director of Examinations and Dr. Chizoba Francisca Umerah, Director Academic Services NTI, at the University of London's Senate House, recently

Prof. Wendy Thomson CBE, the Vice Chancellor University of London has acknowledged and recognised the activities of the National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna.

Thomson, gave the recognition in her welcome address at the opening of the workshop on Open and Distance Learning organised by the University of London and National Universities Commission, which was held at the Senate House of the university, between March 10 and 13, 2020.

She also commended other participants from the Nigerian universities and the partnership and collaboration with the National Universities Commission (NUC).

The workshop, which was facilitated by Open and Distance Learning experts from the University of London Centre for Distance Education and other experienced personnel in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) was activity-based and participants'- centred. Also, it featured discussion, brainstorming and presentations.

Mal. Bashir Mamman, the Institute's Director of Examinations and Dr. Chizoba Umerah, Director Academic Services were the representatives of the Institute at the workshop at the University of London.

During press interaction with **the Bulletin** Mal. Bashir Mamman, NTI Director of Examinations said the workshop was on supporting students' success through high quality ODL.

“This year's workshop focused on supporting students' success with themes on Planning, Practice and Research, he added.

Also speaking at the workshop, Dr. Linda Amrane-Cooper, the Director, Centre for Distance Education (CDE), University of London, said a well-implemented ODL could be more effective than conventional face-face teaching.



Standing Centre: Dr. Linda Amrane-Cooper, the Director Centre for Distance Learning, University of London, with Dr. Chizoba Francisca Umerah, NTI's Director of Academic Services and Mal. Bashir Mamman, Director Examinations NTI, at the Senate House, University of London, UK, during the workshop on ODL.

Prof. Azare Reiterates NTI's Commitment to Partner with FCE Zaria

Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare, the Director-General and Chief Executive of the National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna, has reiterated his commitment and that of the Institute to always partner with the Federal College of Education, Zaria.

Prof. Azare, who was represented by his Special Assistant, Prof. Ahmed Iliyasu, made the statement while delivering his goodwill message at the 7th National Conference of the School of Secondary Education, Languages, Federal College of Education, Zaria, held on March 3, 2020.

Prof. Azare was a Guest of Honour at the event, with the theme: **“Role of English Language and Literature in Effective Teacher Education Service Delivery in Nigeria,”** and also a recipient of an award by the School of Secondary Education and Languages of the College.

“We in NTI are ready to partner with the college in its quests for promoting teacher education in Nigeria and beyond most especially with the current development of engaging academics, researchers, educationists, professionals, scholars and policy makers in education most particularly in language literature and linguistics...” he said.

He said the partnership is with a view to providing qualified and competent teachers adding that teachers are the professionals

saddled with the delivery of knowledge to younger generation and even to adults.

Prof. Azare said the delivery must be through a medium of communication among which language is central to it and most especially in Nigerian context, where English Language is considered to be an official language and formal way of communicating ideas, belief, knowledge and skills.

“For teachers to bring significant and effective change on the cognitive, psychomotor and affective domains of individual students, they need to be well-groomed and conversant with literature knowledge of the society they are delivering their service to and that of other civilisations,” he added.

He said the conference could provide an avenue for academics to improve their capacity in respect of teaching Nigerians on how to take advantage of various fields in education, to facilitate students learning and be much familiar with their culture, religious obligations, and ethics among others.

In a related development, the Vice Chancellor of Bayero University Kano, Prof. Muhammad Yahuza Bello has commended NTI, for supporting teaching of reading in both English and Indigenous Nigerian Languages.

The Vice Chancellor made the commendation in his opening address at the workshop on “**National Reading Framework Development Workshop**,” organised by the Nigerian Centre for Reading, Research and Development (NCRRD) in collaboration with United State Agency for International Development (USAID), held recently in Kano.

He sought for the support of education regulatory bodies and teacher training institutions in the country, in planning various partnership programmes on the teaching of reading in both English and Indigenous Nigerian Languages.

Also speaking at the event, the Director NCRRD, Prof. Ismail A. Tsigas said this year’s workshop is in response to the global concern of learning experts for nations to adopt immediate measures to check the growing decline in the reading culture of their societies, especially among the youth.

“In Nigeria, the situation is made worse by many other local factors, beginning with the failure of many families to inculcate the correct reading habit in their children right from their early childhood,” he said.

Prof. Ahmed Iliyasu, the Special Assistant to the Director-General and Chief Executive of NTI, who represented the latter at the event disclosed to **The Bulletin** that the workshop featured various presentations and discussions by academics from various institutions of learning.

DG FROWNS AT COORDINATORS, OTHERS EXTORTING STUDENTS



Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare
Director-General/Chief Executive NTI

Prof. **Garba** Dahuwa Azare, the NTI Director-General and Chief Executive (DG/CE), has warned that any officer of the Institute's either Zonal or State offices found extorting students monetarily or otherwise would be sanctioned appropriately.

He gave the warning on Friday, March 20, during the **“Expanded Meeting of NTI Management with Zonal and State Coordinators and other Directorate Staff,”** held at the **“Red Chambers”** of the Institute's SMASE Complex.

“The Institute's Management would not tolerate extortion of students in whatever guise, by our field officers; be it for collection of certificates, conduct of Teaching Practice or examination.

“You must warn your staff at zonal and state levels to desist from that untoward attitude because anybody caught perpetuating that misdemeanour would have him/herself to blame.

“That attitude in criminal because since our students have paid for all the services being rendered to them, they are entitled to get value for their money,” he said.

Also speaking at the occasion, Mr Israel Durodola, the NTI Director of Field Operations and Students' Services(FOSS) reminded the zonal coordinators that their responsibilities which among others, includes overseeing the Field Centres which comprised of the zonal and state offices as well as Study Centres and the implementation of the Institute's programmes.

He insisted that they must ensure attendance at duty posts; effectively supervise state coordinators and study centres and full implementation of the Institute's guidelines.

“You must be sure that you read requests, letters and complaints before endorsing them, in addition to coordinators ensuring that practicals are being conducted in their study centres as and when due.

“Students must have practical notebooks in courses such as ITS, CCA and PHE, which is a clear evidence that practical are being conducted.

“We are reviewing the **“Practical Guide,”** to assist in conduct of practical for relevant programmes. Our practical kits should be put to proper use, ” he said.

The Director, who mentioned that many coordinators are making significant efforts that resulted in the increase in students' admission also availed that some closed centres are being revived with good number of students.

On registration, Durodola reminded them that it is one thing to admit, but more important for those admitted to register and urged to ensure that those admitted register for their respective programmes.

“The tradition of waiting close to examinations time to register is no longer acceptable, you must mobilise and sensitise your returning and new students to register at the beginning of each Semester.

“You must ensure that only students with Five O’Level credits including English and Mathematics are qualified to be registered,” he said.

According to him, Prof. Azare-led Management is making concerted efforts to make Course Books available to all students that registered.

On revenue drive and collection of fees, the Director who ensured all revenue leakages must be sealed also warned that any staff or Centre Manager involved in diverting fees would be sanctioned.

He advised them to properly keep and update records in their offices even as he charged to refer to NUC and NCCE Accreditation checklist in updating their records and infrastructure.

“Study Centres should be regularly monitored to ensure adherence to standards and monthly monitoring reports must be sent to my office.

“You must involve stakeholders which among others, include State Ministries of Education, SUBEBs, NUT, TRCN and community leaders because they are critical to the success of our programmes,” he said.

On Teaching Practice, Projects and Continuous Assessment, Durodola asked them to keep to schedule on TP and Projects in addition to only posting registered students for both TP Projects.

“You must digest the TP and Project Manuals and remember that late submission of TP scores is tantamount to manipulation.

“Always remember that as representatives of the DG/CE in your zone and state, do everything possible to represent him well,” he added.

The Director however, commended Prof. Azare, for his resolve to pay outstanding honoraria to the Institute’s Centre Managers and Facilitators in addition to, paying Running Costs for the First Quarter of this year.

“I equally appreciate the support and cooperation of Mal. Mahmud Muhammed Usman, the Registrar and Secretary to Council and Mal. Yunusa Danbala Labaran, the NTI Acting Bursar, in making the payments possible, ” he concluded.

The Bulletin, reports that highlight of the two-day meeting included distributing copies of the Institute’s “***Strategic Plan-2019-2022***,” to the zonal and state coordinators.

**ONLY STAFF THAT FALLS SHORT OF
REQUIRED STANDARDS MISS PROMOTION-
---Says Prof . Azare**



**Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare
Director-General and Chief Executive NTI**

Prof. Garba Dahuwa Azare, the NTI Director-General /Chief Executive (DG/CE), has said that since the inception of his administration in August 2016, no staff that has met the required standard missed his promotion.

He made the disclosure during the opening ceremony of a two-day NTI SERVICOM Workshop titled: **“Building and Sustaining Culture of Service Excellence in NTI for Frontline Staff and SERVICOM Committee Members,”** held between March 11 and 12 at the SMASE Complex of the Institute.

He explained that the gesture aimed among others, at ensuring that every staff is efficient and deliver quality service to the Institute.

“The Institute promotes staff on merit whenever they are due and pass the prescribed examinations. Three staff have just been confirmed as Directors, while 246 junior and senior staff have just been promoted ” he said.

According to him, staff are being sponsored for both national and international conferences, seminars, workshops and trainings for capacity building pointing out that in the last 10 years no fewer than 370 NTI NCE/DLS students were given scholarship by BNET, an international organisation, through NTI.

He recalled that as a directive from the Federal Government, NTI started SERVICOM Division 15 years ago and a committee with representatives from all departments in the Institute was inaugurated in 2010.

“Since inception the Division has been carrying out all its functions diligently such as coordinating the formulation and operation of Service Charter and improvement plan of the Institute.

“Monitoring and reporting progress and performance of staff to Management; Carrying out surveys of services and customer satisfaction.

“Publicising charters and sensitizing staff, students and our Facilitators to deliver quality service at all times,” he explained.

The DG/CE however, availed that constant monitoring is being carried out at all our

centres, to ensure that our students are treated with courtesy, respect and, honesty and professionalism.

He averred that staff should listen to the requests and questions of students with accurate clarifications being made in addition to staff attending to them and giving them services related to the functions of the Institute, fairly, timely and efficiently.

According to him, students/Facilitators, stakeholders are told in advance, how much services would cost.

“Accurate financial transactions with receipts for certification of transactions in accordance with Single Treasury Account guidelines.

“Students are intimated on how to obtain redress for poor services.

“I have been providing all necessary logistics at my disposal to ensure that SERVICOM staff monitor all our programmes and attend all meetings.

“Am willing to do more by sponsoring them to attend all workshops and meetings organised the SERVICOM National Office in Abuja,” he said.

Prof. Azare who gave the assurance of ensuring quality service delivery stressed that total compliance is the priority of his administration.

“We have offices in the 36 states of the Federation and FCT and Six Zonal offices with 43 Focal Officers inaugurated to man our states and zonal offices.

“I am passionate about effective service delivery and will continue to promote the tenets and principles of SERVICOM.

“Our focus has always been to ensure our customers receive the right service. This administration has been committed to policies that will enhance effective service delivery as reflected in most of the activities that have been carried out in the Institute,” he said.

He explained that some of them included the establishment of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) and series of trainings/workshops to our staff by the Code of Conduct Bureau.

According to him, other activities included Opening of bids of all contracts with ACTU and SERVICOM units represented as well as hosting National Workshop for Procurement Officers of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

NYSC Batch A 2019 Honours Durodola, Hannatu



The Batch A 2019 of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), that completed their one year mandatory service year with the Institute, had under the Corpers’ Forum honoured Mr. Durodola Israel, the Institute

Director of Fields Operations and Students Services(FOSS) and Mrs. Hannatu Duniya Giles of the Office of the Registrar.

While Mr. Durodola was honoured as the `` **Most Principled Staff**'', Mrs. Hannatu was honoured as the `` **Most Dedicated Staff** '' of the 2019/2020 Service Year by the Corpers' Forum.

According to Mr. Durodola, the genesis of the award is as a result of the sincerity, commitment and motivation.

He said FOSS is rebranding and the result may not be immediate. `` We have already distributed Course books materials to states, '' he said.



The Impact of Covid-19 on Educational Institutions in Nigeria

Call it COVID-19 or Corona Virus, the name is the same, understandable everywhere even to the illiterates and immediately it is mentioned, it sends shivers to the mind.

There is a lot of information and even conspiracy theories about the origin of the virus, but this is not the concern of this

article. The concern here is to depict the damages it has done to education in Nigeria.

The Data from published epidemiology and virology studies provided evidence that COVID -19 is primarily transmitted from symptomatic people to others, who are in close contact through respiratory droplets, by direct contact with infected persons or by contact with contaminated objects or surface.

Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, nothing was known about corona virus, because it was not in existence, but few months after its discovery, the virus has not only disrupted academic activities in educational institutions like the National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna and its centres across the nation, but has also sabotaged the global economy, put some people out of business and restricted and redefined how prayers should be performed.

A report published by the Leadership Newspaper of May 2, 2020, Page 13, said the UNESCO computation as of April 21, 2020, shows that about 1.723 billion learners have been affected by this closure of schools.

However, Mr Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba , the Minister of State for Education said recently during a daily briefing of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, that all students in the country have been granted free access to the e-learning portals-**"the schoolgate.ng"** and **"the mobileclassroom.com.ng,** " an audio-visual e-learning application that can be accessed via devise like smart phones and computers.

The Platform which is coordinated by UBEC in conjunction with SUBEBs, can also be

accessed at the Federal Ministry of Education's website.

The Minister said the e-learning platforms are subscription free for the students in primary and secondary levels during the lockdown period.

This announcement could be a succour and an alternative against idleness and hopelessly sitting at home.

But despite all these provisions, the pandemic has already started impacting either negatively or positively, depending on how someone looks at it.

One of the impacts of the pandemic to education is that it has forced us to quickly adopt radio as a medium of instruction, delivering teaching through radio like what is now witnessed from the Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) Radio.

It has also reminded us that online and virtual learning is a good option, not only because of barrier in relation to distance, but also in a period of pandemic such like this, where students can easily be reached from home easily.

The online delivery, whether prepared or unprepared is expected to affect the quality of the programmes, especially that the world was taken unprepared.

It has altered our academic calendars in almost all schools at different levels. The pandemic led to the closure of all educational institutions in Nigeria and stopped many children from attending schools, in compliance to social distancing, for fear of community transmission of the virus.

The virus is fast spreading, taking precious lives of our people, but no doubt even among its preys, there are classes of people that are more vulnerable as revealed by health experts and documents by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

We would continue to receive useful updates on the virus via the mainstream and the social media by the WHO, Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Presidential and State Task Forces on COVID-19, but this virus must be stopped.

This and other issues are expected to fashion new thinking and contingency plan for a possible future interruption like the one witnessed and posed by the corona virus.

Continue from the last edition

DR PATRICK NDUBUISI ONYEKWERE LAID TO REST

Remains of the quintessential educationist-Dr Patrick Onyekwere, the *fourth* Director-General and Chief Executive of the Institute, were committed to *mother earth* on Saturday, 29th February, 2020, at his country home in Imo State.

Mr Obioha Ogbuka, JP, the NTI Deputy Registrar (HR) and Special Assistant to the late DG & CE, chronicled his life and times with particular focus on his strategic impact on the affairs of the Institute (2007 - 2008).

BIRTH, EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

He mentioned that late Dr Onyekwere who was a Prince from the Royal Dynasty of Eze Onyekwere, *NFUNNALA I* of Ahiara Mbaise , was born on **17th March, 1948**, at Ahiara

Nnarambia community of Ahiazu Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State and the second child of a foremost teacher within the then Eastern Nigeria, Late Mr Onyekwere.

After the completion of his basic education and armed with HSC, Onyekwere proceeded to the University of Ife in 1970 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Education) Degree (Hons) in 1974. He bagged a Masters and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degrees both in Education in 1982 and 1987 respectively from the University of Ibadan.

The young Onyekwere was an astute footballer during his Basic and University education days with many admirers believing that had it been in the recent times and climes, he would have been an international footballer of note.

WORKING CAREER

According to Ogbuka, the Late Onyekwere, unlike many Nigerians today who stumble upon education course by accident, had from the very beginning desired a life as a teacher and `` dedicated himself from the first day of graduation to his retirement from public service to the nation’s Education Sector, making an impact that is far beyond the average.”

At the Federal Ministry of Education which he joined in 1975 as an Education Officer, Dr. Onyekwere through hard work, dedication to duty and selfless commitment to affordable and accessible quality education rose to the Directorate Cadre.

In various capacities over the years, he promoted the adoption and implementation

of educational policies that seek to promote access, equality and justice. The most notable were the Universal Primary Education programme (UPE); creation of a specialised agency for the education of nomads and migrant fishermen - the National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE) and the Universal Basic Education programme (UBE).

He served the nation as a member of many important Committees on education such as: the National Implementation Committee on the Report on the Review of Higher Education in Nigeria; the Nigerian Delegation to the Gambia to Review Distance Education Programme in the West African Sub Region and the Committee on “Life Link” World Peace Project among others.

In recognition of his professionalism, authoritative reflections and in-depth experience on Distance Education in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Vancouver, Canada, in 1991, appointed him a Consultant on Distance Education to critically assess and review the status of Distance Education in Nigerian Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and NTI.

He was in 1994 drafted by the Ministry to see to the actualisation of the establishment of the Education Tax Fund (ETF), now Education Trust Fund (TETFUND).

APPOINTMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS AS DIRECTOR GENERAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In 2007, Dr. Patrick Ndubuisi Onyekwere was appointed the DG/CE of NTI, Kaduna, Many in the education sector, described his appointment as a round peg in a round hole

going by his academic and professional grounding as well as deep-rooted experience and pedigree on distance education.

While at the helm of affairs in NTI as the DG/CE, Dr. Onyekwere assiduously devoted himself through policies, programmes, projects and activities to effectively deliver the most convenient, accessible, cost-effective and equitable teacher education by distance learning.

Some of his laudable achievements included:

- a) Actualisation of the establishment of **NTI Radio Station FM 102.1**: exclusively dedicated to distance teaching and learning.
- b) Empowered thousands of part-time course tutors involved in the Institute's programmes to update their knowledge and skills through workshops on improving the delivery and management of NTI's programmes.
- c) Massive deployment and integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Institute's programme management and delivery system.
- d) Improvement in programmes' quality assurance mechanisms through effective monitoring of operations at Headquarters, Zonal and State offices in addition to affecting the operationalisation of inbuilt checks and balances at the Study Centres to sustain quality education.

- e) Ensured that the inherited backlog of examinations were conducted with adequate supervision and monitoring with and results released *pronto* to the delight of students and other stakeholders.
- f) Ensured that examinations were taken as and when due and results processed and released on time by empowering the performance of all the necessary activities in the process
- g) Granted all our NCE/DLS students with carryover courses between the year 2000 and 2007 the opportunity to resit the applicable courses and certificated those that passed.
- h) Systematically worked towards the establishment of NTI Model Junior Secondary School with the foundation stone laying ceremony performed within the first two months of his assumption of duty as the DG&CE by the then Hon. Minister of Education, Dr. Igwe Aja-Nwachukwu. It must be pointed out that the establishment of the Model Junior Secondary School had been on the drawing board for over 10 years before Dr. Onyekwere's appointment

FAREWELL!!!

That Dr. Patrick Ndubuisi Onyekwere devoted his life to the course of man is no less a truth. His life could be summed up as that of a humanist. He epitomised equity, fairness and justice. Nothing was too big for

him to sacrifice for the wellbeing of another man. Though many misconstrued his generosity, abused, exploited and even castigated him for it; he was never deterred till the very end.

His contributions to national development through the instrumentality of education were colossal and legendary. Many of the policies that drive the nation's education sector today benefitted from his wealth of knowledge. For example: UPE, UBE, TETFUND, Scholarship Board, Distance Education delivery policies among others.

Dr. Patrick Ndubuisi Onyekwere touched lives in diverse ways.

To many he was a teacher, an educationist, a mentor, a builder, a father, a provider, a benefactor, a policy maker, a social crusader, a Daniel comes to justice and a leader. His good works made him larger in death. A colossus goes home to the Creator fulfilling destiny. Fare thee well, my boss of all times and inestimable value.

Indeed, God ruleth in the affairs of men.

INNALILLAHI WA'INNA ILAIHIN RAJI'UN



**Late Baaba Fatima Mohammed Adamu
Gamawa**

The Chairman and members of the NTI Bulletin's Editorial Board wish to on behalf of the NTI Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of the Institute, condole with **Mallam Adamu Adamu, the Honourable Minister of Education**, over the demise of his beloved Mother, Baaba Fatima Mohammed Adamu Gamawa, on Thursday, **April 23, 2020** at the age of **106** years and laid to rest on Friday, April 24.

Late **Baaba** was a descendant of famous **Wakilin Makaman Katagum**, married to the Late **Katukan Katagum** and survived by six children including Mal. Adamu, our Minister

May her gentle soul rest in Aljanna Firdausi, amin .

Signed

M.S . Abdullahi,
Editor-in-Chief.