COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF 2011 EKITI STATE EDUCATION SUMMIT HELD AT BISHOP ADETILOYE HALL, ADO EKITI ON 4TH AND 5TH MAY, 2011

INTRODUCTION:
Consequent upon recommendations from the report of the Education Task Force/Visitation Panel earlier set up by the Ekiti State Governor, His Excellency, Dr Kayode Fayemi, an Ekiti State Education Summit was held at the Bishop Adetiloye Hall, Ado Ekiti, between 4th and 5th May, 2011.

Coordinated under the leadership of the Honorable Commissioner for Education, Dr. Eniola Ajayi, the Summit was chaired by Professor Sam Aluko, a renowned Professor of Economics, with the theme "Enhancing Functional and Sustainable Education in Ekiti State." The Summit considered sub-themes such as Enhancing the Quality of Primary Education, Parents and State Partnership towards Functional Education, Enhancing Technical, Vocational and Special Education, Examination Malpractices, Issues in Higher Education, ICT and Applications for Functional Education, Revamping Science and Technical Education and Funding Education in Ekiti State. The two-day Summit was well attended by eminent scholars, veteran educationists, educational administrators, school principals, traditional rulers, representatives of P.T.A.s, Civil Society Organizations, Trade Unions, and students' representatives. The goals of the Summit were stated as follows:
1. Need for consensus and political will of all the stakeholders to achieve an enduring and positive impact on education
2. Agreement on the philosophy guiding education policy by the stakeholders:
3. To chart a dignified path to revamp the comatose education sector, which by extension has multiplier effect on the socio-cultural and political economic sector of the state.
4. To examine all the components within the education sector, basic/primary, secondary, tertiary/vocational and tertiary education as well as cross cutting issues of philosophy, funding, curriculum, technology and gender.
5. To build a workable road map to reclaim the lost glory in this important sector

A key-note address was given by Professor Akin Oyebode, a Professor of International Law/Jurisprudence and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ado Ekiti. Goodwill messages were also received from Ugbimo Ure Ekiti and the Ondo State Government.

After extensive deliberations on papers presented, participants made the following recommendations on the various sub-themes of the Summit:

A   PRIMARY EDUCATION:
1. Government should provide adequate teaching and learning materials for use in primary schools and train teachers to use them.

2. Primary school teachers should be re-trained through regular workshops and seminars.
3. Adequate incentives should be provided for teachers who work in the rural areas
4. Government should strengthen the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Education to ensure adequate supervision of primary schools.
5. All stakeholders should be involved in the management of primary schools in Ekiti State.
6. Government should strengthen the existing College of Education in the State to be able to provide specialised training in Primary Education for teacher-trainees.
7. Educational Resource Centres should be established in each local government area to provide instructional materials for teaching and learning.

B. SECONDARY EDUCATION
1. The Teaching Service Commission should ensure that candidates undergo both written and oral interviews before they are employed as secondary school teachers.
2. Class size in secondary schools should be reduced to between 30 to 40 students per class.
3. There should be regular and effective performance appraisal for teachers every three years before they are promoted.
4. Teachers should be equitably distributed between urban and rural schools taking into consideration the school population.
5. Transfer of teachers should take place at the beginning of the session and teachers should be made to stay in their schools for a minimum of six years before they are transferred.
6. For adequate supervision of schools, the Government should establish a Quality Assurance Agency
7. School curriculum should be reviewed to accommodate moral education.
8. Government should raise the standard of admission into secondary schools.
9. Teachers' conditions of service should be made attractive.
10. Secondary schools should be made to provide special classes and units for special education to cater for the physically challenged learners.
11. Facilities such as laboratories, furniture, sick-bays, libraries, classrooms and recreational centres should be provided in all schools.
12. Existing laws on examination malpractices should be enforced and indicted schools should be sanctioned to serve as deterrent to others.

C.   VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. Establishment of Colleges of Education (Technical) and deliberate establishment of specific departments in the existing Colleges of Education and the University in the State
2. Involvement of professional bodies in the curriculum design, course accreditation and Students' assessment
3. Training of personnel for the institutions
4. Ensuring functional link between the industries and the institutions
5. Education of the challenged to be free
6. The curriculum of the institution should accommodate the diverse physical and emotional needs of the learner.
7. Financing education should be sourced from industries, the ETF, the PTF, the International development Partners and the Public/ Private Partnership initiatives

D. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1.   Secondary Schools
1. Inventory of introductory technology equipment and machinery in all schools should be taken by government in order to savage the ones that can be salvaged.
2. Existing Government Science Schools at Iyin, Emure and Ayede to be made model schools with full complement of infrastructural facilities and well trained staff.
3. Science teachers to undergo train-the-trainers programmes in order to improve their teaching ability. This can be done by establishing a Science Equipment Centre. This Centre can house fully equipped laboratories in all science subjects.

2.   Technical Colleges
1. Technical education should be revamped through upgrading the six technical colleges presently owned by the State
2. Entrepreneurship education should be introduced in the technical colleges so that their graduates can go to private businesses.

3.   Higher Education
1. Adequate funding should be provided to equip the laboratories in the three departments of the Faculty of Engineering of the UNAD.
2. USTI to become a campus of UNAD (Faculty of Engineering) to avoid duplication of programs and reduce pressure on funding by the state government.

E.   Information Communication Technology

1. Primary Level:

1. Either Create Computer labs in each school with 10-20 thin clients/server and not Laptops which will require subsequent purchases or
2. Build Fixed Digital Centers in Local Governments and Install reading, writing, and mathematical software.
3. Enroll the teachers on summer training programs.
4. Include ICT based teaching methods in the curriculum.
5. Setup of Mobile Laboratories should be considered under a PPP if financing becomes an issue.

2.   Secondary and Vocational Level:

1. Consolidate and relocate internet and computer equipment amongst schools. Repair or replace defective equipment.
2. Provide zonal digital centers/libraries for Day students
3. Install server based thin clients instead of laptops and computers. This will save resources and provide more dynamic and upgradable course contents.
4. Install pre-packaged and customize software uniformly across all schools and digital centers
5. Purchase bulk bandwidth and plan the schedule of classes among the schools and digital centers so that the amount of bandwidth required at any scheduled period is minimized and managed.
6. Train the teachers and establish email addresses for communication.

3.   Tertiary Institutions

1. Bulk purchase of Internet bandwidth to be shared among the institutions
2. Create a VPN (Virtual Private Network) between the institutions, administrators, students and parents. Local content can be shared at almost no cost and the speed of a local network.
3. Introduce a robust Portal and Student Management System in the institutions to facilitate registration, learning, and payments.
4. Consolidate government programs
5. Establish digital centres with wired and wireless computer networks on each campus through a PPP (public, private partnership).
6. Install self-paced audio/video course contents for all programs of study on the computers/thin clients in all the schools.

4.   Administrators:

1. Train administrators and link them to the school online system for access into the portal for effective on-time management.
2. Periodical evaluation of the effectiveness of the ICT programs.
3. Capacity Development of Teachers to remove the fear of the keyboard.
4. Teachers must be engaged in ongoing professional development – mandated by the state government.
5. International partnerships must also be created to improve the teachers.

6. Teachers should practice multiple methods of teaching that accommodates all kinds of learning, styles and intelligences.
7. Pronunciation and Diction must be revisited.

F. TERTIARY EDUCATION:
1. There is need to re-think the aims and objectives of tertiary education in Ekiti State as few high-quality higher educational institutions are preferable to many lacklustre mediocre institutions.
2. Ekiti State needs to upgrade its facility for production of manpower in disciplines which are critical to national development
3. Ekiti must ensure excellence and be poised to reclaim its lost glory in Education
4. University Education is capital intensive and the Government must be ready to inject adequate funds into the sector
5. Ekiti State should concentrate its resources on one university rather than on three
6. Private partnerships, international partnerships and community participation should be encouraged as alternative sources of funding of University Education

G. PARENTS AND STATE PARTNERSHIP:
1. The State Government should solicit Public Private Partnership in the provision of functional education at all levels.

H. GIRL CHILD
1. Ekiti State school system should attach great attention to the safety and security of the girl child.
2. There must be a set of rules and regulations aimed at preventing abuse of the girl Child
3. Principals of schools must ensure that School visiting hours are strictly observed and the practice of parents getting private, one-on-one tutoring of the girl child must be discontinued
4. Ditto the practice of appointing guardians of the opposite sex for girls which has been variously abused must be discouraged
5. Fences must be constructed round girls secondary Schools
6. Toilet facilities should be provided for the girl child in all the schools in the State
7. Parents must cooperate with school administrators in enhancing the security of the students
8. Curriculum must include gender friendly courses that will be very beneficial to the girl child in future

I. FUNDING OF EDUCATION:
In addition to the regular allocation from the Federation account, other possible sources of internal revenue should include an education tax on all companies registered and operating within the state while a Task force on internally generated revenue should be able to suggest the modalities and the tax rate to be imposed
In order to be able to finance education and still be able to meet these other

development objectives, the government should embark on a sustained program of generating internal revenue along with judicious allocation of the mobilized resources to all sectors

J.   CURRICULUM
1. Teachers must be engaged in ongoing professional development – mandated by the state government.
2. International partnerships must also be created to improve the teachers.
3. Teachers should practice multiple methods of teaching that accommodates all kinds of learning, styles and intelligences.
4. Pronunciation and Diction must be revisited.

By voice vote, majority of participants provisionally adopted the communique after corrections

Dr. Femi Orebe   **Professor Mobolaji E. Aluko**
Head, Communique Committee   *Summit Facilitator*