

Communique Issued at the end of the finalization meeting with Directors and Desk Officers in Charge of Strategic Planning for the Technical Development of State Medium Term Basic Education Strategic Plans (SMTBESPs) for Cycle 4 (2024 – 2027) for the 36 States and FCT held on Monday 11th - Wednesday 13th November, 2024 at Green Desert Palm Hotel, Kano, Kano State.

Preamble

The Meeting of the cycle 4 SMTBESP was convened by UBEC for the purpose of finalization of the process of preparation of the MTBESP document which commenced in January 2024. The meeting provides opportunity for all stakeholders to collate key inputs for the development of the plan.

In attendance were the Director Planning, Research and Statistics UBEC and his Staff, a Resource Person, Directors PRS and the Strategic Planning Desk Officers from 33 States and FCT. However, Imo, Akwa Ibom, and Ebonyi States were unable to attend.

Objectives

- i. Align State SMTBESP Drafts with Policy document and relevant Education Sector Plans
- ii. Identify the gaps and challenges from Basic Education Sector Analysis
- iii. Ensure that all States develop their SMTBESP within the agreed framework and time line
- iv. Agree on next steps of implementation

Observations

1. UBEC's efforts in institutionalizing the SMTBESP mechanism is key in improving the quality of UBE delivery in States.
2. The SMTBESP document ensures evidence-based implementation of the UBE programme in the States.
3. It was observed that there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of the Planning and EMIS Officers in the development, review and monitoring of the UBE programme.

4. There is no awareness amongst SUBEB Chairmen & Management, Policy makers and relevant Stakeholders on the importance of the SMTBESP as a prerequisite for accessing FGN/UBE Matching Grant.
5. It has been observed that DPRS in some states are not involved in the development and defence of the Action Plan.
6. PRS departments in States are not well equipped for monitoring and implementation of the UBE Programme.
7. Irregular conduct of a yearly National Review Meeting on the implementation of the SMTBESP.

Recommendations

1. UBEC should allocate at least 2% of the Matching Grant for Planning and Data Collection in the States
2. There is need for regular capacity building engagements for Planning, Research and EMIS Officers in the development, review and monitoring of the UBE programme.
3. Strengthen sensitization and awareness of the importance of SMTBESP as a prerequisite for accessing FGN/UBE funds and other interventions.
4. PRS must be involved in the preparation, defence and implementation of FGN-UBE Action Plan.
5. PRS Departments should be well equipped with dedicated monitoring Vehicles, Tablets, computers and internet facilities.
6. UBEC and SUBEBs should conduct a yearly **Review** Meeting of the SMTBESP implementation.

Conclusion

Following the successful conduct of the finalisation meeting, States affirmed their commitment to the submission of the validated SMTBESP document to UBEC in line with the agreed timeline which is Friday 22nd November, 2024.

The meeting appreciates the Executive Secretary of UBEC Dr, Hamid Boboyi for his commitment and support, DPRS (UBEC) for

coordinating, Staff of UBEC PRS for providing Technical Assistance, SUBEBs Chairmen for prioritising the plan and facilitating the participation of states DPRS and desk officers towards the development of cycle 4 SMTBESP.

Communique Group

1. Michael Joseph Gowon - DPRS, Plateau
2. Adekoya Vincent Ola - DPRS, Lagos
3. Ojirika Joy C. - DPRS, Rivers
4. Jonathan John Kul - DPRS, Gombe
5. Akura Terkimbi - DPRS, Benue
6. Alabi Oluwafemi - DPRS, Abia
7. Felicia V. Ango - DPRS, Kebbi
8. Zuhumnan Haggai - UBEC, Representative