

**A SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF KADUNA STATE, MAL. NASIR AHMAD EL-RUFAI AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE EDUCATION MANAGEMENT RETREAT ORGANIZED BY KADUNA STATE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HELD AT THE NIGERIA UNION OF TEACHERS (NUT) ENDWELL CONFERENCE CENTRE, MUGADISHU, KADUNA CITY CENTRE, KADUNA, KADUNA FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020.**

Protocols

It is with humility and gratitude to Almighty God who made this day possible for me to witness a Retreat of this nature organized by the Education Sector. I was particularly happy when I heard that the Education Sector is Organizing a Retreat with the theme 'Towards Achieving all-inclusive Education in Kaduna State', this clearly indicates that we are in the same page. The Retreat has come and gone, and we expect to see issues that have been discussed here manifest positively in no distant time.

I will like to use this opportunity to put on record my sincere appreciation for the proactive initiative of the leadership of Ministry of Education to make this retreat a reality which will go along way in addressing most of our challenges in the Education Sector under my administration. You are aware of the dilapidating education situation we met when we took over power close to five ago and the measures we put in place to ensure that education gains its lost glory, the speed we want to see this change is yet to meet our desire . So, when the idea of an Education Retreat was muted out, I received with joy that at least a step is taken in the right direction to improve on the management and performance of this sector. We are aware of the attendant challenges in this sector and we have committed huge resources and we are still committing resources to revamp this sector. The steps we have taken and are still taking are with the view of harnessing on the dividend of our large and youthful populace. Basic and post basic education is very crucial in the life and development of human capital

which every growing economy is desirous of. Unless we address the education of our young age people, the future of this State and the Country is very bleak.

My administration has people first and will put people first. Therefore, the education sector which covers every field of endeavor is given priority. It is my believe that this retreat has provided the opportunity for all stakeholders to share experiences and exchange ideas on contemporary issues affecting Education in our State. I also believe that this retreat has generated new ideas, innovations and strategies of addressing the challenges facing this sector. We will continue to monitor progress going forward and provide the enabling environment for access, free and compulsory education for all school age people in the State. We will also provide the enabling environment for other adults who have missed education to ensure that the benefit from all aspects of their choices with trainings in various levels of skills to ensure that our people are empowered to make meaning out of life. Particular attention will be given to the girl child to explore in every education facet to reach her potentials. Our girls are unstoppable and unscripted so also our boy child.

We will carefully study the outcome of this Retreat and find ways of addressing the issues raised and together we will be able to chat the way going forward.

I understand that you have deliberated and resolved on renewed commitment to serve the sector, to position the Zonal Offices, address 3 most dilapidated Secondary Schools in each Local Government Area in the State in addition to the 16 priority Secondary Schools currently under renovation, make Quality Assurance ICT compliance and more efficient, creating a new School for the gifted, position the new Neighborhood Schools urgently waiting for taking over and many more issues that I belief will move the sector forward. These are commendable efforts and government will provide the enabling environment with the resources to actualize these.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have serious tasks ahead of us and until we agree to work towards solving these, the education sector will return to where we met it when we came on board. To facilitate all-inclusive access to education by all children in the State, we declared education free and compulsory. We are determined to fund the financial gaps accordingly.

We must all have a change of attitude and be willing to do what is right at the time. We must have the right people in the right offices to change the education indices for good and for prosperity. I understand and appreciate the various reform efforts of the leadership in this sector. Please keep it up.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I want to use this opportunity to assure Stakeholders of Government.s continued support in giving education the much-desired place it deserves. I wish to thank you for the great strive you are making in the development and transformation of the Sector. Your dream in ensuring that every child in Kaduna State have free and qualitative education is highly commendable.

Once again, I assure you that this government under my leadership will continue to support this notable and very important quest by committing more to the ideals of improving education in Kaduna state.

I want to thank our Partners such as UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank etc who are supporting us in the Sector. My gratitude also goes particularly to PERL for supporting the sector and particularly this Retreat. I am also hoping that more of such supports will come in from you and others. The Sector will call and consult with you and indeed other Partners from time to time and my prayer is that your doors will be opened, and you will accommodate us when the need arises.

On this note, it is my singular honor and privilege to declare this Retreat closed and looking forward to a new Education Sector in Kaduna State.

Thank you and God Bless.