

RESOLUTIONS MADE AT THE 2019 NYSC TOP MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENTS HELD FROM MONDAY, 28TH TO THURSDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2019 AT SANDRALIA HOTEL, JABI, ABUJA

PREAMBLE

The 2019 NYSC Top Management meeting with Representatives of State Governments was held at Sandralia Hotel, Jabi, Abuja from Monday, 28th to Thursday, 31st October, 2019 with the theme; ***"Optimizing the Potentials of Corps Members for National Unity and Development: The Role of State Governments as Stakeholders"***. The opening ceremony took place on Tuesday, 29th October, 2019 and was presided over by the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Alhaji Mohammed Musa Bello, who declared the meeting open. He was represented by Dr. Ibrahim A. Abubakar. Others in attendance were the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr. Sunday Dare; representative of the Chairman, NYSC National Governing Board, Hajia Binta Muazu; representative of the Chief of Army Staff, Brigadier General Lawrence Fejokwu; representative of the Commandant-General Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Deputy Commandant-General Madu Hillary Kelechi; representative of the Director-General, Department of State Services, Mr. Aliyu Mohammed Jega; and a representative of the President of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Mr. Venatus V. Okafor. NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General S Ibrahim, led Members of the Top Management including Directors and Coordinators of Area Offices to the meeting with facilitators also drawn from the National Directorate Headquarters, Abuja. As expected, representatives of the 36 State Governments and the FCT Administration were present.

RESOLUTIONS

After exhaustive deliberation, the meeting resolved that:

- i. Every State should set up a properly constituted and functional NYSC State Governing Board in line with the provisions of the NYSC Act so as to enhance the smooth operations of the Scheme;
- ii. In view of the crucial role of the NYSC Local Government Committee in the success of the Scheme at the grassroots, each Local Government Council in the country should set up the Committee and empower it to function effectively;
- iii. A strong partnership should be forged by NYSC and the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) in order to ensure better working relationship, enhance Corps Welfare and increase support for the Scheme's activities at the grassroots;
- iv. To optimize the enormous potentials of Corps members, State Governments, Local Government Councils and other Corps Employers should provide for them, decent accommodation or Rent Allowance in lieu of accommodation;
- v. States and Local Government Councils that pay Local Allowance to Corps Members posted to them deserve commendation. The meeting observed that others were not paying the Allowance, and further resolved that all States, Local Governments as well as other Corps Employers should henceforth ensure prompt payment to enhance performance of the Corps Members;
- vi. States, Local Governments and other stakeholders should prioritize the security of Corps members as that is germane to the smooth operations of the Scheme;
- vii. State/Local Governments, the FCT Administration and other Corps Employers, who stand as *loco parentis* to Corps members, should provide them with free medical facilities and other welfare packages as available to their permanent employees;
- viii. State Governing Boards should compile and make available to the NYSC State Secretariats, their States' manpower requirements and locations of agencies requiring the services of Corps members so as to make postings to Places of Primary Assignment seamless as well as stem Corps rejection, redundancy and truancy;

- ix. In view of the impacts of rejection, underutilization and redundancy on the productivity of Corps Members, State Governments should issue fresh circulars directing their Establishments and other Corps Employers to accept and effectively engage the Corps members posted to them;
- x. To curb rampant cases of induced rejection and quest for preferential postings, Corps Employers should always give explicit reason(s) for rejection to the Scheme for appropriate action;
- xi. State Governments should consider the grant of tax relief to private establishments, who accept and utilize the services of Corps members to stem the current tide of rejection;
- xii. States and Local Governments should ensure the provision and maintenance of Corps lodges as a way of attracting Corps Members to the rural areas;
- xiii. State Governments should encourage Private Sector Operators, being major NYSC stakeholders and employers of a reasonable percentage of Corps Members, to fulfill their statutory obligations of providing accommodation, transportation and health services or allowance in lieu of same to Corps members serving with them;
- xiv. States should step up efforts to develop Orientation Camp facilities as key requirement for a successful service year with resultant effect of enhancing the impact of Corps members during the service year. It was further recommended that the State Governments should explore the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) approach to reduce the burden of developing the camps;
- xv. In view of the continuous rise in Corps population, State Governments/FCT Administration should take proactive steps to expand and improve Orientation Camp facilities to accommodate at least 5,000 Corps Members and 500 Camp Officials in the nearest future;
- xvi. Corps members, as change agents, should be enlisted in tree planting exercise to combat desertification and erosion in the Orientation Camps and environs;
- xvii. The NYSC Management should institute a reward system to encourage States that have been outstanding in the discharge of their statutory

- responsibilities to the Scheme, especially through the provision of good Orientation Camps;
- xviii. While NYSC deserved applause for the array of Community Development (CDS) Projects dotting the landscape of the country, States and Local Governments should increase support for CDS to enhance grassroots development;
 - xix. In view of the difficulty in securing sponsorship for CDS activities at the grassroots, NYSC Management should sensitize Corps Members to identify and channel their energies to projects that are not capital intensive;
 - xx. In order to increase the tempo of Group CDS activities/programmes, States and Local Governments should introduce Honours Award for outstanding CDS Group(s) in addition to the individual Award;
 - xxi. While the enormous contributions of Corps Members deserved commendation, State Governments should offer automatic employment to outstanding ones (State Award Winners);
 - xxii. In line with the vision of the founding fathers of the Scheme on harnessing Corps members' skills to galvanize national development, the different tiers of Government should mobilize them for execution of minor infrastructural projects, especially in the rural communities, rather than award contracts for same;
 - xxiii. NYSC Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme is a welcome initiative, and that in order to ensure the success of its post-camp training component, States and Local Governments should provide skills training centres for the Corps members;
 - xxiv. The Federal Government should be applauded for its planned introduction of a two-month Post-Camp ICT training and award of starter grant for those who distinguish themselves during the training as announced by the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development. It was further agreed that NYSC Management would make the necessary follow-up to ensure the actualization of the initiative;
 - xxv. The idea of establishing NYSC Farms and other Ventures to serve as training grounds for Corps members is laudable, and that States and

- Local Government Councils should allocate land to the NYSC for agricultural purposes and the Ventures;
- xxvi. NYSC Management should ensure proper documentation of titles of lands, buildings and other assets allocated to the Scheme by the State Governments for record purposes and to guarantee continued ownership even in the event of regime change;
 - xxvii. States and Local Governments should provide office and residential accommodation for NYSC State Secretariats, Zonal and Local Government offices in line with the provision of the Enabling Act;
 - xxviii. Governments of States hosting the Headquarters of the newly established NYSC Area Offices should provide office and residential accommodation as well as warehouses to serve as Zonal Stores;
 - xxix. In view of the fact that some provisions of the NYSC Act and Bye-Laws are not in tune with current realities, the Management of the Scheme should explore avenues for regular review of the documents to address contemporary challenges;
 - xxx. Given the numerous contributions of the NYSC to the socio-cultural, political and economic spheres of the country, the Federal Government should disregard calls in certain quarters for the scrapping of the Scheme;
 - xxxi. To actualize the vision of the founding fathers of NYSC on use of the Scheme as a veritable avenue for national integration and free movement of labour, State Governments should as a matter of policy retain/encourage the employment of certain percentage of Corps members at the end of each Service Year;
 - xxxii. In line with Section 7 Sub-section 3 of the NYSC Act, which assigns some key roles in the day-to-day running of the NYSC to State Governments, all States should provide reasonable Subvention to the NYSC Secretariats to aid their functions;
 - xxxiii. For sustained relevance of the Scheme, the support of the State Governments, which is central, should be sustained;
 - xxxiv. In view of the increasing Corps population and the attendant increase in the cost of running the Scheme, NYSC Management should evolve a strategic development plan that will ensure continued availability of

resources for the sustenance of the Scheme. In this regard, participants advocated a legislation to create intervention options for the Scheme such as the one available to institutions of higher learning through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND).