

WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE STAKEHOLDERS' TOWN HALL MEETING FOR HURRIED CHILD PROJECT THEMED *HURRIED CHILD SYNDROME: IMPLICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT* HELD AT BON HOTEL ELVIS, 2 MORNVA STREET, OFF AMINU KANO CRESCENT, WUSE II, ABUJA FCT.

PROTOCOLS

1. The Honourable Minister of Education - Mallam Adamu Adamu
2. The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education – Mr. Andrew David Adejo
3. The Director-General, National Orientation Agency - Dr. Garba Abari
4. The Guest Speaker, Snr Education Specialist (World Bank) – Prof. Olatunde Adekola
5. The Guest Lecturer, Trauma Expert & Counselling Psychologist - Dr. Bukola Ogunkua
6. Key stakeholders in child development and care
7. Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Guests

8. Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Mr. Adeyemi Adebayo, an Education Quality Specialist. It is my privilege and great pleasure on behalf of the organisers of this forum, to specially acknowledge the presence and welcome all our distinguished guests.

First, the Chief Guest of Honour, The Hon. Minister for Education, *Mallam Adamu Adamu*.

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There is strong evidence that children are exposed to various forms of violence and abuse worldwide. These traumatic events that occur during childhood are generally called Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and can have a significant impact on a person's physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their lifetime.

As a sign of creating awareness and condemnation of violence against children, the 19th of November is set apart annually as the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

The organisers of this event, ***A Mother's Love Initiative*** is a Non-Governmental Organisation bringing change to The African Child by raising the standards of an ideal, balanced, and happy child in Africa through collaboration with teams of professionals and experts to initiate and drive positive outcomes in the life of the African Child, through the use of Professional Counselling, psycho-education, and institutional/ community support services.

This Town Hall meeting is themed: *THE HURRIED CHILD SYNDROME - Implications for Sustainable National Development*. It is set to discuss the critical issue of hurrying children through life thereby denying them their childhood life experiences and examine its consequences on building a sustainable national development.

We are honored to have Prof. Adekola, the Guest Speaker, a senior education specialist working in the Africa Region at the World Bank Group based in Nigeria. He has been the Task Team Leader of various projects including the Second Primary Education Project, State Education Sector Project, and the Lagos State Secondary Education Project which was selected for the Africa VPU Team Award for Technical-Vocational Education Public-Private Partnerships in Lagos, Nigeria.

Similarly, we have a Guest lecturer, Dr. Bukola Ogunkua. She is a doctor of medicine, a child trauma expert with the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, a population health researcher, and a licensed professional counseling psychologist. She is currently the co-chair of the African Union Taskforce on child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence. She will join us virtually.

I must also acknowledge and welcome our panel of discussants Mr. David Adejo Andrew, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, and Dr. Garba Abari, the Director General, of the National Orientation Agency.

I urge you all to prepare yourself to be challenged, excited and inspired. And before I hand over to Segun and Faith, our hosts for this meeting, who will outline the day's various events, I want to say once more on behalf of *A Mother's Love Initiative*, welcome. It's wonderful to have all of you here.

Thank you.

Adeyemi Adebayo

17th November, 2022.