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CAPS VIOLATIONS: INSTITUTIONS RISKS SUSPENSION OF LICENCES - EDUCATION MINISTER



Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, Honourable Minister of Education.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, has warned that stiffer sanctions awaits tertiary institutions, which flagrantly abused the nation's admission process and the Central Admission Processing System (CAPS), an automated platform for the

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FG REVIEWS ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR EDUCATION, NON TECHNOLOGICAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES

As part of measures to increase and prioritise enrolment to educational and non technological agricultural programmes across Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) and Ordinary National Diploma (OND), the Federal Government has reviewed extant admission criteria for

candidates seeking admission into these institutions.

As a consequence, candidates desirous of studying these programmes would be exempted from taking the UTME.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, dropped this hint at the 2026

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Pg 17 INSTITUTIONS SET MINIMUM TOLERABLE ADMISSIBLE UTME SCORES FOR 2026/2027 SESSION

ATTENTION!!!

The 2026 National Minimum Tolerable Scores for Admissions into Universities is 150, Colleges of Nursing also 150; and Polytechnics is 100.

While Candidates aspiring to Colleges of Education and Non-Technological Agricultural programmes would only register for the UTME without sitting the examination to be admitted

GRAMMAR CHECK

When two or more singular subjects refer to the same entity, use the singular form of the verb:

E.g.s. Rice and beans is what is served on Wednesdays.

My Director and Uncle knows the truth (this means that the

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PROF OLOYEDE HAS SET HIGH STANDARDS FOR OTHER CHIEF EXECUTIVES - MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

Impressed by the various uncommon achievements of Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the

Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad, has given a pass mark to the icon saying he had set a standard for other chief executives to

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SENATORS DANDUTSE, SHUAIBU PAY GLOWING TRIBUTES TO OLOYEDE LED JAMB

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Tertiary Education and TETFund, Senator Muntari Dandutse, and the Chairman, Senate Committee on

Cybersecurity, Senator Shuaibu Afolabi Salisu, have paid glowing tributes to the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) under the leadership of Prof. Is-haq

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JAMB CONDUCTS UTME FOR FOREIGN CANDIDATES

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has successfully conducted the foreign component of the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) for Nigerians and non-Nigerians seeking

admission into Nigerian tertiary institutions.

The examination was held on Friday, 15th and Saturday, 16th May 2026 across designated foreign centres, with the

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2026 NATAP-M AWARDS: UNIJOS WINS N500M MEGA PRIZE

The University of Jos, Plateau State, has carted away the ₦500million Mega Prize for the 6th edition of the National Tertiary Admission

Performance Merit (NATAP-M) Awards. The university emerged as runner-up institution with an aggregate of five

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JEOG HOSTS FIRST STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON ADMITTED UNDERAGE STUDENTS

...Commends Oloyede for Unprecedented Initiatives

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board's Equal Opportunity Group (JEOG) has organised its first stakeholder engagement on underage students admitted into the nation's tertiary institutions for the 2025/2026 academic session. JEOG commended the Registrar, JAMB, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, for the unprecedented initiative saying there is no higher education system in the world that has established such a support system at the national level comparable to what Oloyede has set up for underage students.

This commendation was made by the convener and Chairman, JEOG, Prof Emeritus Peter Okebukola at a virtual meeting held on 12th May, 2026.

The meeting had in attendance such distinguished personalities as Vice-Chancellors, educational psychologists, child development experts, parents, policy-makers,

student affairs administrators, child rights advocates, and the exceptionally-brilliant young students.

It would be recalled that no fewer than 96 students, who were below the statutory minimum age of 16 years, were admitted to universities for the 2025/2026 session, each having sail through a rigorous multi-layered screening process

approved by the Federal Ministry of Education, and who are currently pursuing various programmes in various tertiary institutions across the country.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Okebukola described the initiative as unprecedented in the higher education administration system anywhere in the world. He, therefore, commended the Board for establishing a national support framework for these set of exceptionally-gifted underage students. He added that, to JEOG,

these underage candidates are not perceived as a challenge but rather "an extraordinary opportunity and a shared national responsibility to lay a solid foundation for national development."

Similarly, the President, Global University for Innovation (GUNI-Africa), stated that mentors from the organisation have been assigned to each of the 96 successful students. He added that every institution, parent, counsellor and administrator interacting with these students carries a role that is not incidental but indispensable.

It is to be recalled that to qualify, each candidate was required to score at least 320 in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), obtain a minimum of 80 per cent in the post-UTME of their chosen institutions, score at least 80 per cent in the Senior School Certificate Examination, as well as attain 80 per cent in an independent

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...FG Reviews Admission Criteria For Education, Non-Technological Agricultural Programmes

Policy Meeting on Admissions into Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria held at the Body of Benchers, Abuja, on 11th May, 2026.

The Minister pointed out that these waivers are not unconnected to the efforts of government to complement its robust interventions aimed at expanding access to teacher education institutions as well as colleges of agriculture across the country.

Under the new policy, candidates with a minimum of four credit passes seeking admission into NCE and OND programmes will no longer be required to sit the UTME.

The Minister further explained that despite the waiver, all such candidates must register with JAMB, and their credentials would be screened, verified, and certified for the issuance of admission letters

through the Central Admissions Processing System in line with extant regulations.

"There is compelling evidence, including empirical data from JAMB, that Colleges of Education and those of non technological Agriculture possess significant capacity to admit willing candidates, particularly from their immediate localities if this policy is properly implemented.

Therefore, he stated that harnessing this latent capacity of these institutions is critical, not only for expanding access but also for addressing the persistent challenge of out-of-school children/adolescents and fostering, from an early stage, a positive orientation towards the teaching profession.

"It is, however, imperative to emphasise that such candidates shall

mandatorily register with JAMB, and their credentials be duly screened, verified, and certified for the issuance of admission letters through CAPS, in accordance with extant regulations.

"This approach strikes a necessary balance between widening access and preserving the integrity of our admission system. Also, the measure will not only ease the pressure associated with UTME but also encourage greater participation in teacher education and agricultural programmes, both of which are critical to national development," he said.





JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

REPORT OF INFLOW AND OUTFLOW FOR THE PERIOD MAY 09 2026 – MAY 15 2026

FINANCIAL INFLOW

S/N	DESCRIPTION	INFLOW	AMOUNT(=N=)
1	E-facility/Sales		73,240,398.00
2	PRC Service Charges		739,802.00
3	Deposit for DE e-pins		21,550,000.00
4	Other Income		340,500.00
	Total		95,870,700.00
	The sum of =N=13,283,617.00 was auto-deducted by the OAGF	for Operating Surplus remittance to CRF.	

FINANCIAL OUTFLOW

S/N	DESCRIPTION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT(=N=)
1	Staff Claims	Various	77,957,318.00
2	Yus Associate Ltd	Maintenance of Office Building	3,639,256.00
3	CBT Centres	2026 UTME Registration Service Charge	2,840,100.00
4	Supervision of Examination	2026 Foreign UTME	64,705,843.00
5	CBT Centres	2026 UTME Examination Service Charge	78,592,000.00
6	Supervision of Examination	2026 UTME	19,504,818.00
7	Bajem Trust Ltd	Office Equipment	2,565,000.00
8	Cignait Global Solution Ltd	Supply of Laptop	36,498,525.00
9	Sensitive Item	2026 Policy Meeting	87,072,500.00
10	Abuja Electricity Distribution Company	Electricity Charge	217,712.00
11	Purple Rose Ltd	IT Equipment	26,506,751.00
12	Sensitive Item	Item Moderation and Item Banking	9,330,000.00
13	Hammer General Venture	Publicity	3,269,674.00
14	Remita	Financial Charges	88,150.00
	TOTAL		412,787,647.00

JAMB CELEBRATES STAFF BORN MAY 17TH – MAY 23RD 2026

Happy Birthday

17TH MAY

Adam Abiodun Abdulhameed
Comfort Unekwu Onojah
Jumoke Modupe Aiyedehin
Hauwa'u Danladi Inuwa
Nana Isioma Azibiantu
Idris Mohammed Jungudo
Rafiu Tunde Oseni
Esther Olayinka Sijuwola

18TH MAY

Yusuf Adamu Adoye
Gideon Zuma Thomas
Marian Akor Ebuta

Amir Muhammed Bashir
Luqman Ayomon Ashimiyu

19TH MAY

Victoria Olubunmi Adeyemo
Ijeoma Lilian Ogbonna
Gloria Tochukwu Okeke

20TH MAY

Kafayat Adenike Ojo-Ibrahim
Blessing Aigbavboa
Sani Dabo
Rilwanu Shehu
Segun James Abiara

21ST MAY

Ishaku Barau Bwari
Peter Chidiebere Nwaogu
Nkechi Modesta Ejikeme
Umar Labaran
Helen Aladi Akinyooye

22ND MAY

Mary Sunday Eteng
Ogechi Franklin Edobor

23RD MAY

Miptau Adewale Osman





EDUCATION IN THE MEDIA

NEW TELEGRAPH MONDAY MAY 11, 2026: 450 Schools Opt For CBT As 1.9m Candidates Write CB-WASSCE 2026: The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has said that a total of 1,959,636 candidates from 24,207 senior secondary schools across the country enrolled for the ongoing Computer-Based WASSCE for School Candidates. The examination, which covers a duration of eight weeks and three days, commenced on Tuesday, April 21, and will end on Friday, May 19, 2026.

The Head of the Nigeria National Office (HNO) of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), Dr Amos Josiah Dangut, disclosed this, while addressing a press conference on the conduct of the ongoing CB-WASSCE for School Candidates, 2026. He stated that the Council introduced its maiden Computer-Based WASSCE for School Candidates 2025.

Dangut, who said the candidates would be examined in 37 subjects, comprising 97 papers, stated that some schools enrolled for the CBT examination mode, while many schools opted for the traditional pen-and-paper mode.

"This year, more schools have chosen the CB-WASSCE option due to its seamless nature, alignment with global best practices, and success of last year's option," Dangut stated. While explaining that this is also in line with the recommendation of the Federal Ministry of Education, he noted that some offshore schools, that is, in the neighbouring countries that use the WAEC syllabus, also opted for the CB-WASSCE, 2026.

THISDAY MONDAY MAY 11, 2026: FG Waives UTME for Candidates with Four Credits Seeking Admission into Colleges of Education: The Federal Government has announced that candidates seeking admission into Colleges of Education for the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) programme will no longer be required to sit for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

The Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, made the announcement on Monday at the 2026 Policy Meeting on Admissions to Tertiary Institutions organised by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board in Abuja.

Under the new policy, candidates with a minimum of four credit passes in relevant subjects can apply directly to Colleges of Education. However, they must still register with JAMB, and their credentials will be screened, verified and processed through the Central Admissions Processing System (CAPS) before admission letters are issued.

Dr. Alausa said the policy, which takes effect from the next admission cycle, is aimed at expanding access to teacher education and addressing the persistent challenge of out-of-school adolescents. The minister explained that the exemption would also apply to candidates seeking admission into National Diploma programmes in non-technology agricultural and agriculture-related courses. According to him, the move is designed to ease pressure on the UTME while encouraging greater enrolment in teacher education and agriculture, two sectors he described as critical to national development.

Dr. Alausa also reiterated that admissions conducted outside CAPS remain illegal and will not be recognised by the Federal Government. He warned that institutions that bypass JAMB's admission platform risk sanctions, including regulatory actions against their leadership. Also in Leadership, Monday, May 11, 2026; Guardian, Monday, May 11, 2026, Punch Tuesday, May 11, 2026

NEW TELEGRAPH TUESDAY MAY 12, 2026: Sanwo-Olu Excited As LASU Retains Position As Most Sought-After University In Nigeria: Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has expressed delight over the emergence of the Lagos State University (LASU) as the most sought-after university in Nigeria in the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

The Governor commended LASU for once again topping the list of most preferred tertiary institutions in the country and reaffirmed his administration's ambition to position the university among the top 10 universities globally. In a statement from the office of his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Sanwo-Olu said the institution's sustained rise is a reflection of the Lagos State Government's commitment to building an academic environment capable of driving prosperity and innovation.

According to figures released by the Board, LASU recorded 84,426 applicants in the 2026 UTME, making it the most sought-after university in

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Nigeria. The milestone marks another significant achievement in the institution's 41-year history and further strengthens its growing reputation as a hub for academic excellence, innovation, discipline and global competitiveness.

The JAMB data also showed that it came in second with 78,240 applicants, while it ranked third with 60,370 applicants. and followed in fourth and fifth positions with 58,895 and 55,425 applicants respectively.

Reacting to the development, Governor Sanwo-Olu described LASU as "a beacon of excellence" and applauded the institution for maintaining its status as Nigeria's most sought-after university.

NEW TELEGRAPH TUESDAY MAY 12, 2026: Abia Govt To Investigate Bribery, Certificate Scandal At ABSU: In a bid to sanitise the state-owned university, in line with ongoing infrastructural transformation, the Abia State Executive Council has set up a 5-man Special Investigative Committee to ascertain the veracity of recent allegations of bribery, certificate forgery and harassment involving students and lecturers of Abia State University (ABSU).

The Committee, according to the Commissioner for Information, Prince Okey Kanu, who disclosed the resolution of the State Executive Council on the matter, headed by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Pastor Caleb Ajagba.

Among its terms of reference include, to identify the perpetrators and make appropriate recommendations to the Visitor to the university; investigate, allegations of bribery and certificate forgery against a lecturer; to determine the extent of the implementation of the white paper on the 2024 full investigation panel to the university, to identify implementation gaps and any other matter that may be relevant to the ongoing transformation and restoration of Abia State University as a citadel of learning and excellence in teaching and research.

Members of the committee include the Senior Special Adviser (SSA) on Public Communication, Mr Dodoh Okafor as Secretary, Mr Chinedu Ekeke, Professor Idowu Eluwa, and Professor Lawrence Idemudua.

The Commissioner explained that the committee was set up not to witch hunt anyone but to ensure the highest level of academic and ethical standards in the institution and would work with the governing council of the university to carry out its assignment.

PUNCH TUESDAY MAY 12, 2026: Most Federal Education Colleges Now Award Degrees, NCE Together – Minister: The Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, has said most federal colleges of education in Nigeria now operate a dual-mandate system that allows students to earn both the Nigeria Certificate in Education and a Bachelor of Education degree concurrently. Dr. Alausa disclosed this on Tuesday during an interview on Channels Television's Politics Today. He explained that the initiative was introduced in 2025 to strengthen teacher education and improve enrolment in colleges of education. According to him, students admitted into the institutions begin with the NCE programme and, upon meeting university admission requirements after three years, proceed to complete a degree programme within an additional two years.

"From last year alone, dual-mandate colleges of education and all federal colleges of education today, most of them, except the ones that were founded five years and below, now offer dual-mandate degree.

"That student will now go, they'll enter as an NCE, they'll do three years. After three years, if they meet the requirement to go to universities, which is five credits, they'll continue and do another two years and get two degrees.

"Five years, you get NCE, National College of Education Diploma, and you get a Bachelor of Education degree," he said.

The minister said the reform had

improved the sustainability of colleges of education and increased student enrolment into the institutions. According to the minister, about 28 federal colleges of education have already commenced the programme, while state-owned colleges are expected to begin implementation from the 2026 academic session after amending relevant state laws.

NEW TELEGRAPH WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026: NABTEB Sets Registration Guidelines, Deadlines For Common Entrance: The National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) has announced that registration for the 2026 May/June In-School Certificate Examinations and the National Common Entrance Examination (NCEE) is currently ongoing across the country.

A press statement released by Uchechukwu Olisah, Assistant Director (Media/Public Relations Officer) quoted the Registrar/Chief Executive Officer, NABTEB, Dr. Mohammed Aminu Mohammed, as saying that registration for the 2026 May/June In-School Examinations will close on Sunday, 31st May, 2026, while registration for the National Common Entrance Examination (NCEE) will close on Sunday, 24th May, 2026.

Dr. Mohammed advised schools, parents, guardians, and prospective candidates to take advantage of the registration window and complete all necessary procedures before the stipulated deadlines to avoid last-minute challenges. He further stated that the registration process has been simplified through designated online portals to ensure a seamless and stress-free experience for candidates and schools.

Dr Mohmmed maintained that the Board is committed to leveraging technology to improve service delivery and examination administration nationwide. urging candidates and school authorities to strictly comply with all registration



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guidelines and ensure accurate submission of candidates' data. He also advised members of the public to contact the nearest State Office or visit the Board's official registration portals for further clarification and support.

NEW TELEGRAPH WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026: NUC Unveils \$65m World Bank Programme For 24,000 Nigerians: The National Universities Commission (NUC) has revealed that 24,000 Nigerians would benefit from a new \$65 million funding phase of the World Bank-supported Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

The Executive Secretary of the NUC, Prof. Abdullahi Ribadu, who made this disclosure during the signing of performance contracts for the additional SPESSE financing, noted that the new funding builds on the success of the initial \$80 million SPESSE project, which became effective in 2021. According to him, the initiative was designed to strengthen Nigeria's capacity in procurement, environmental management and social standards across public and private institutions.

Prof. Ribadu explained that the project addresses the shortage of skilled professionals in critical governance areas. He said, "With the support of the World Bank and under the coordination of the NUC, six centres of excellence were established across the six geopolitical zones to provide sustainable capacity building in these critical sectors."

While disclosing that the centres were ensuring inclusivity across all regions of the country, Ribadu added that the participating universities were selected through a rigorous and competitive process that assessed institutional readiness, quality assurance and sustainability.

Describing the contract signing as a renewed commitment to accountability, sustainability and institutional excellence, Ribadu disclosed that three of the six centres

had commenced PhD programmes, while others were expected to begin by July 2026.

PUNCH WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026: Fewer Nigerians Leaving To Study Abroad, Minister Claims: The Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, has dismissed concerns about a mass exodus of Nigerian students to foreign universities, saying the trend has reversed sharply under the current administration.

Dr. Alausa made the assertion during an interview on Channels Television where he said investments in academic continuity and institutional quality had made Nigerian universities significantly more attractive to prospective students.

He said his ministry's educational support services department had been tracking outbound student movement and had recorded a steep decline in the numbers leaving to study abroad.

"We've seen precipitous drop in that number of student going out. Our tertiary institutions are better now. We have academic continuity, academic session continuity," he said.

He pointed to the Joint Universities Preliminary Examinations Board, known as JUPEB which is Nigeria's equivalent of the British A-levels, as evidence of growing confidence in local alternatives. He said the programme, previously sought abroad by students hoping to gain entry into foreign universities, was now being taken domestically and was oversubscribed.

Alausa cited the University of Lagos law school and other top institutions as further examples of programmes turning away applicants due to excess demand.

"Kids are staying there. The quality of education is significantly better. If you now compare the 2023 data with 2024 and 2025 and see the precipitous drop of Nigeria going out," he said.

PUNCH WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026: FG to Settle Stranded Foreign Scholarship Beneficiaries With N8bn:

The Federal Government has pledged to pay a total of N8bn in outstanding obligations to Nigerian students on the now-scrapped Bilateral Education Agreement scholarship. The government said that the scheme was riddled with fraud and abused beyond its original purpose.

Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, made this known on Tuesday during an interview on Channels Television. He said N4bn had already been disbursed and the remaining N4bn would be approved within two weeks. "We've paid four billion of it. We're disbursing the four billion now. This additional four billion will be approved. I've been in constant communication with Minister of Finance. It will be approved in the next two weeks. They will be settled," he said.

The minister said the BEA was originally designed as a diplomatic instrument to send Nigerian students abroad for specialised training in fields such as engineering, medicine and aeronautics, but had been distorted over the years into a general overseas education subsidy.

He further disclosed that some beneficiaries were found to be simultaneously enrolled in Nigerian universities while collecting BEA funds, a development he described as indefensible.

The BEA programme was established through diplomatic agreements with countries including China, Russia, Algeria, Hungary, Morocco, Egypt and Serbia, under which hundreds of Nigerian students were sponsored to pursue higher education overseas. Nigeria's budget for servicing the scheme grew from N3.2bn in 2022 to N8bn in 2025.

The Federal Government formally scrapped the scheme in April 2025, affecting over 1,200 students abroad. The suspension was maintained into 2026, even as a fresh N1.7bn allocation for the programme appeared in the 2026 Appropriation Bill. The government clarified that the budgetary provision was a



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procedural rollover and not a policy reversal.

LEADERSHIP THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026: FG Moves To Deploy Unified Education Data System: The federal government has initiated plans to deploy a unified education data infrastructure aimed at centralising and securely managing information across all levels of Nigeria's education system.

The initiative, discussed at a stakeholders' meeting in Abuja on Thursday, brought together representatives of relevant ministries, state commissioners of education, researchers and academics, and was convened to deepen understanding of the framework and its expected impact on education planning and delivery.

Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, said Nigeria had for years operated with limited and fragmented data in the education sector, describing the situation as a major constraint to effective planning and implementation.

He said the proposed Nigeria Education Data Infrastructure (NEDI) would address gaps by capturing comprehensive information across schools, students, teachers, infrastructure, curricula, and other key components of the education system. "NEDI will provide the opportunity to plan better, budget better, and collectively intervene where necessary. Government will use it for evidence-based planning and policy development, effective budgeting at all levels, and targeted investments in infrastructure and capacity building, among others," he said.

He also disclosed that the system would integrate each learner's profile with the National Identity Number (NIN), a move he said would curb identity-related malpractice in the education system. "The era of examination and identity fraud, miracle centres and malpractices in the education sector is over," he declared.

LEADERSHIP THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026:

FG's UTME Exemption Policy Driven By Declining Interest In Key Programmes

– Alausa: Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, has explained that the federal government's decision to exempt some courses from the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) was driven by data showing declining enrolment in Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Agriculture-related programmes across the country.

Speaking on Channels Television's 'Politics Today' programme, Dr. Alausa said the UTME Waiver for some courses will boost tertiary admissions to 1.5 million. According to him, the policy was designed to revive technical, agricultural and teacher education while expanding access to tertiary education for young Nigerians.

He noted that the exemption applies mainly to non-technology National Diploma programmes, agriculture-related courses and colleges of education offering the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE).

He said the government took the decision after discovering that many tertiary institutions, particularly polytechnics and colleges of education, were recording poor admission figures despite huge investments in infrastructure.

"The appetite among young Nigerians to pursue National Diploma (ND) and National Certificate in Education (NCE) programmes has declined significantly. We have about 255 Colleges of Education, yet many young people are no longer interested in attending them for several reasons. He explained that the reform removes the need for candidates to sit for UTME before progressing into the university phase of the programme.

According to the minister, the reform has already increased enrolment in federal colleges of education, with several state-owned institutions also preparing to adopt the system from the 2026 academic session.

Dr. Alausa added that the administration was also overhauling the curriculum in colleges of

education to include courses such as Artificial Intelligence and Education, Computer Science and Education, Engineering and Education, as well as entrepreneurship training.

LEADERSHIP THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026: FG Returns One Million Out-Of-School Children—Alausa:

Minister of Education, Maruf Alausa, has disclosed that the Federal Government has returned over one million out-of-school children to classrooms within the last 30 months as part of ongoing reforms aimed at tackling Nigeria's education crisis.

Dr. Alausa also challenged widely quoted figures by UNICEF and UNESCO placing Nigeria's out-of-school children population at about 18 million, insisting that ongoing government data mapping indicates the actual figure could be far lower.

Speaking on Politics Today on Channels Television, the minister said the Federal Government had already mapped out-of-school children across seven states, including Akwa Ibom, where he said officials found it difficult locating affected children. "Today, I can tell you that we've moved over one million children on the street back to school.

"We're doing data mapping of out-of-school children as we continue aggressive intervention in moving children back to school," he said.

According to him, the government's pilot exercise in Kaduna State revealed significant discrepancies in existing global estimates.

Alausa said the government was expanding interventions to address the crisis through partnerships with private schools, school feeding programmes and increased collaboration with state governments.

He disclosed that the Federal Government would soon begin paying private schools on a per-child basis to absorb out-of-school children, while plans were underway to roll out a nationwide school feeding programme tied directly to enrolment.

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LEADERSHIP THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026:

Again, Kano Bags NECO Excellence Award For Candidate Sponsorship, Registration: The Kano State Government has again received an Award of Excellence from the National Examinations Council (NECO) for emerging as the second-best outstanding state in the sponsorship and registration of candidates for the Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE).

The award, presented during the grand finale of NECO's 25th anniversary celebration held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, recognised Kano for sponsoring and registering a high volume of candidates for two consecutive academic sessions – 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

The Director of Public Enlightenment of the Kano State Ministry of Education, Mr. Musbahu Aminu Yakasai, who disclosed this, said that the Commissioner for Education, Dr. Haruna Makoda, received the award on behalf of the state government.

Dr. Makoda said the recognition reflected the Kano State Government's sustained investment in expanding access to quality secondary education and its commitment to ensuring that eligible students are not denied the opportunity to sit for examinations due to financial constraints.

He dedicated the award to Governor Abba Yusuf, teachers, students and education officials whose contributions, he said, made the achievement possible.

"This award is a result of hard work and perseverance demonstrated by the state government and its resolve to prioritise education as the foundation for sustainable development in Kano society," the commissioner stated.

He noted that for two consecutive years, the state had mobilised resources to sponsor and register thousands of students for NECO examinations, assuring that the government would sustain the

initiative.

VANGUARD THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026:

WAEC Assures Candidates, Parents On Hitch-Free WASSCE; Union Insists On Strike Today: The West African Examinations Council, WAEC, has assured candidates, parents, school-owners, stakeholders and the general public of its unwavering commitment to the seamless, hitch-free and successful conduct of the ongoing West African Senior School Certificate Examination, WASSCE, for School Candidates, 2026.

Recall that while the Council on Monday announced the readiness and preparedness for the peaceful conduct of the ongoing 2026 WASSCE for school candidates, some members of the Council are threatening to embark on a three-day protest from yesterday, Wednesday, over alleged management high-handedness, illegal recruitment and imposition of pay policies.

However, in a press statement issued by the Public Affairs Department on Wednesday, and signed by Ag. Head, Public Affairs for the Head of National Office, Mrs. Moyosola F. Adesina, explained that WAEC remained committed to upholding freedom of expression for unions and staff, in addition to safeguarding the integrity, credibility and smooth conduct of the examination.

Her words: While we are concerned about the rights of unions and staff to express their grievances, we are also committed to ensuring seamless and smooth conduct of the ongoing examination.

"However, the Council would like to clarify some of the issues raised by the union. To begin with, the adjustment in the examination days was necessitated by the streamlining of WAEC subjects from 76 to 38. Consequently, the shortened number of days was to reflect the new number of subjects vis-à-vis the hybrid mode of examination conduct.

"Similarly, all the Council's disciplinary and career progression matters are handled in line with the WAEC staff

handbook and relevant statutory provisions. Hence, the assertion of incessant dismissal and inappropriate sanction raised by the union is fallacious. Also, the engagement of contract Examination Officers and Assistant Examination Officers is a measure to manage increasing workloads and ensure smooth operations of the Council's processes across the Sub-region.

"On this note, we urge members of the public to disregard any rumour or misinformation capable of creating confusion regarding the examination. All necessary information is available on our verified and accredited channels of communication. Also in New Telegraph, Thursday, May 14, 2026

LEADERSHIP FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026:

Kogi Poly Withdraws 229 Students Over Poor Academic Performance:

The Academic Board of Kogi State Polytechnic has approved the first semester results for the 2025/2026 academic session and sanctioned the withdrawal of 229 students over poor academic performance. The decision was reached during the Academic Board meeting held on May 12, 2026, under the chairmanship of the Rector of the Polytechnic, Professor Salihu Sanusi Avidime.

This was disclosed in a statement by the Acting Coordinator of Public Relations and Protocols of the institution, Mr. John Amos Onimisi. According to him, the meeting was attended by principal officers, deans, heads of departments, and other members of the Academic Board, who deliberated extensively on academic matters affecting the institution. He explained that the approval of the results followed a rigorous verification exercise conducted by the Academic Board Central Results Verification Committee.

"The approval of the results followed a rigorous and comprehensive verification exercise conducted by the Academic Board Central Results



...Education in the Media

Verification Committee. The committee carefully scrutinised and authenticated submissions from various departments and schools to ensure accuracy, fairness, and compliance with the Polytechnic's academic regulations," he said. He added that the committee's report served as a critical guide in the board's deliberations and final decisions on the results. Following the approval, the rector commended members of the verification committee for their diligence, commitment, and professionalism in carrying out the assignment.

LEADERSHIP SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026: JAMB Begins Institution, Course Changes For UTME Candidates: The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has commenced the process for candidates seeking to change their institutions or courses after the release of the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) results.

The examination body disclosed this in a statement posted on its official X (formerly Twitter) handle signed by its public communications adviser, Dr Fabian Benjamin yesterday.

According to the Board, candidates wishing to effect changes in their

institution or programme of choice are expected to visit any of its approved computer-based test centres across the country.

JAMB advised applicants to ensure they carry out the process only at accredited CBT centres to avoid errors and possible fraud.

The Board stated that the exercise is now fully active and accessible to candidates who may wish to reconsider their initial choices based on their UTME scores or admission preferences. It further announced that the printing of the original 2026 UTME result slips would commence on Monday, May 18, 2026.

ROADS CAN WAIT. BUILDINGS CAN WAIT. AIRPORTS CAN WAIT. EDUCATION CANNOT.

The road we fail to build today can still be built tomorrow. The airport that was delayed this year may still serve future generations. But the child pushed out of school by policy failure is often lost forever.

Every year, one of Nigeria's roughly 15 million out-of-school children loses a narrow window that may never reopen. When reforms eventually come, they benefit a different cohort, not the child already left behind.

That is why yesterday's National Stakeholders Meeting on the National Education Data Infrastructure, led by the Honourable Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, struck me as profoundly consequential. In many ways, it may become one of the most important national infrastructure projects Nigeria has undertaken in recent years.

Data from all states were available on the portal, from school enrollment to the state of physical infrastructure to the student-teacher ratio. A mind-boggling quantum of data, made easy to understand, compare, and drive policy.

The Nigeria Education Management Information System, designed by Ernst & Young, the company that developed a similar system in India,

is a national treasure: robust yet simple.

Sitting in that room, I watched evidence do what argument alone often cannot. Two figures stayed with me.

The first was the gap between primary school enrolment and junior secondary enrolment. The drop is so wide that I found myself asking the obvious question: what happened to those children?

Where did they go between Primary Six and JSS One? A generation appears to thin out between those two rungs, and we owe ourselves an honest answer.

The second was the composition of JAMB candidates: fresh entrants versus repeat candidates. The ratio revealed an admission bottleneck I had not fully grasped.

Too many qualified young Nigerians are queuing behind the same narrow gate, year after year. Suddenly, the Minister's policy direction on easing admission bottlenecks, which I had instinctively questioned, began to make sense to me.

That is the power of credible, real-time data. It does not merely inform policy; it humbles assumptions.

I am grateful to be contributing my own quota through the Nigeria Research and Education Network (NgREN). We have committed to

delivering connectivity and digital services to tertiary institutions this year, and to extending similar infrastructure to secondary schools in 2027.

What is happening in education may not yet dominate the headlines, but something important is taking shape quietly beneath the surface. Evidence is beginning to replace assertion. Data is starting to shape decisions.

The question on my mind: If evidence can transform education governance, when will the rest of the government follow?

Osita Chidoka
15 May 2026



The Hon Minister of Education, Dr Maruf Tunji Alausa with the former Minister of Aviation, Dr Chidoka Osita





HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN FOCUS 34th Edition

THE POWER OF INITIATIVE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

"The difference between an average officer and an exceptional one is often initiative."

In every organisation, there are officers who wait to be told what to do, and there are those who see what needs to be done and act responsibly within the limits of their authority. The second category often becomes the driving force of progress, efficiency, and institutional growth. Initiative is the ability to think ahead, identify needs, solve problems, and take constructive action without waiting for constant instruction. It is one of the most valuable qualities in the modern Public Service.

This edition of **HRM IN FOCUS** explores the importance of initiative and how officers can develop it for personal effectiveness and organisational success.

Understanding Initiative

Initiative is the willingness to act responsibly, proactively, and intelligently in carrying out official duties, which includes identifying problems early, proposing workable solutions, taking timely action on routine responsibilities, going beyond the minimum requirement of duty, and anticipating needs before they become urgent matters; it is not disobedience or acting outside authority, but responsible action guided by sound judgment and professionalism.

Why Initiative Matters

Officers who demonstrate initiative contribute significantly to organisational effectiveness because they:

- Reduce delays in workflow
- Prevent avoidable problems
- Improve service delivery
- Support supervisors effectively
- Encourage innovation and progress

Institutions grow faster when officers are proactive rather than passive.

Examples of Initiative in the Workplace

1. Solving Problems Early

An officer notices a recurring administrative bottleneck and proposes a better process before complaints escalate.

Contd in Pg 11

...Human Resource Management in Focus

2. Preparing Ahead

An officer assembles necessary documents and background information before meetings or assignments.

3. Learning Without Being Forced

An officer voluntarily improves digital, writing, or technical skills to become more effective.

4. Supporting the Team

An officer steps in responsibly during peak periods without being repeatedly directed.

5. Protecting Institutional Interest

An officer notices a risk, error, or omission and promptly brings it to attention with solutions.

Barriers to Initiative

Some officers fail to show initiative because of:

- Fear of making mistakes
- Habit of waiting for instructions
- Lack of confidence
- Indifference to organisational goals
- Poor understanding of responsibilities

These barriers can be overcome through growth mindset and professionalism.

How to Develop Initiative

1. Understand Your Role

Know your responsibilities clearly so you can act confidently within them.

2. Think Ahead

Ask: What needs attention next? What can go wrong? What can be improved?

3. Be Solution-Oriented

Do not only identify problems—suggest practical remedies.

4. Keep Learning

The more competent you become, the more confidently you can act.

5. Take Ownership

Treat assigned duties as responsibilities, not burdens.

Initiative and Leadership

Initiative is often the first visible sign of leadership potential. Supervisors naturally notice officers who:

...Human Resource Management in Focus

- Think independently
- Add value consistently
- Require less supervision
- Help move work forward

Many future leaders are first recognised through initiative.

Final Word

The Public Service needs officers who do more than occupy positions—it needs officers who create value. Initiative transforms routine workers into trusted contributors and ordinary roles into meaningful impact.

Do not wait for every instruction before doing what is clearly necessary and proper.

Tip for the Week

"See what needs to be done—and do it responsibly."

HRM Reflection

Every officer has the opportunity to become indispensable through initiative. When we act proactively, think constructively, and support institutional goals willingly, we strengthen both our careers and our organisation.

...CAPS VIOLATIONS: Institutions Risks Suspension of Licences - Education Minister

conduct of a credible selection process of suitably-qualified candidates for tertiary education placement.

According to the Minister, appropriate sanctions would be meted out to defaulting institutions including the suspension of their operating licences, among others.

He also declared that Heads of tertiary institutions would be held accountable for any misdemeanours in the abuse of CAPS, stating that "the integrity of the admission process is the foundation upon which the legitimacy of our institutions rests.

"In this regard, the role of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has been both critical and commendable. This is owing to the fact that it has largely succeeded in eliminating admission racketeering through its Central Admissions

Processing System (CAPS), a transparent and standardised mechanism it established to ensure fairness and equity in the placement of candidates."

Additionally, he said, "Let me reiterate, without equivocation, that admissions conducted outside this framework are illegal and will not be recognised. The era in which institutions operated parallel admission systems, often to the detriment of deserving candidates, must come to an end.

"I have resisted many attempts aimed at influencing me to condone illegality in the admissions process. I will not be a party to such actions. As such, any institution found to have conducted admissions outside CAPS will be held accountable, and appropriate sanctions shall be applied without hesitation. Heads of institutions, whether in the public or

private sector, must recognise that fact before they act in a contrary manner."

On compliance, the Minister said government would continue to enforce adherence with this policy, adding that such a measure was neither a witch hunt nor a punitive measure but a necessary step towards restoring order and credibility in the system.



JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

National Headquarters Complex, Suleja Road, Bwari, P.M.B. 189, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.

Tel: 08166335513, <http://www.jamb.gov.ng>

PROF. ISHAQ O. OLOYEDE, ON, FNAL

Registrar



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

No: 2025ff05

22nd August, 2025

ADVISORY ON PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING OF (DEGREE) ADMISSION FOR AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

In 2022, the Board proposed that universities should take full responsibility for admissions into all degree programmes offered through institutions affiliated with them. However, this directive was not fully implemented, as universities were initially given the liberty to decide on the matter, pending a final resolution. To date, only the University of Ibadan has assumed this role of overseeing and coordinating the admissions of its affiliate institutions.

2. Following the meeting held on Monday, 18th August 2025, with various institutions regarding violations of matriculation guidelines, concerns were raised about the existing admission processing structure. Notably, institutions complained that they could not be held accountable for the misdemeanors of their affiliates under the existing processing format. As a result of this, the matter was revisited.

3. Consequently, it was resolved that the previously proposed process, where Mother-Institutions take responsibility for admissions into their affiliated institutions, should now be adopted and implemented by all universities with affiliates.

4. In light of the above, the Board has developed an updated procedure for the processing of admissions by both Mother-Institutions and their affiliates, as follows:

- a. Head of the affiliated-institution logs into JAMB (CAPS) portal and downloads candidates for a particular programme;
- b. The Head of the Affiliated-Institution (wherever it is based) logs into JAMB (CAPS) portal and sets admissions criteria for every programme, such as minimum scores for UTME, post UTME, aggregate, catchment and ELDS;
- c. The Head of the affiliated institution proposes the qualified candidates for each programme on CAPS and it goes to the Head of the mother-institution;
- d. The Head of the Mother-Institution (wherever it is based) logs into the JAMB (CAPS) portal and recommends the candidate to the Registrar of JAMB (or representative) for approval or declines the proposal with a reason for the rejection;
- e. The Registrar of JAMB (or representative) approves the recommendation(s) from the Head of the Mother-Institution or declines the recommendation with a reason for the rejection;

Contd in Pg 14

- f. If the recommendation is approved, the candidate is notified through his/her email and SMS to either accept or reject the offer of admission. The two institutions can log in and view the status of the recommended candidates;
- g. If the candidate accepts the offer of admission, he/she can thereafter print his/her admission letter and access other services online from his/her profile.

NOTE: The Head of an Affiliated-Institution has access to **“VIEW ONLY”** all recommendations by the Head of a Mother-Institution.

5. All Universities serving as Mother-institutions, Polytechnics/Monotechnics, Colleges of Education and other institutes offering degrees in affiliation with universities are to be guided by this, please.



Mohammed A. Babaji
 Director Admissions
 For: Registrar

...JAMB Conducts UTME for Foreign Candidates

exception of centres in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Buea, Cameroon, whose examinations would be conducted on dates to be announced later due to unforeseen exigencies that prevented them from participating alongside other centres.

The foreign centres are London, United Kingdom; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire;

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea; Banjul, The Gambia; Accra, Ghana; Cotonou, Benin Republic; Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Buea, Cameroon; and Johannesburg, South Africa.

A total of three hundred and seventy-nine (379) candidates registered for the examination across the ten (10) foreign centres.

The foreign UTME initiative was

introduced to position Nigerian tertiary institutions within the global education market and has continued to attract increasing interest from foreign nationals seeking admission into institutions in Nigeria.

Officials of the Board were deployed to the various foreign centres to monitor and supervise the conduct of the examination.



The Registrar of JAMB Prof Is-haq Oloyede signing the visitor register at the Nigerian Embassy in London during the 2026 foreign exam.



2026 FOREIGN UTME in Abicjan centre.



2026 FOREIGN UTME in Malabo centre.



2026 FOREIGN UTME in London UK, centre.



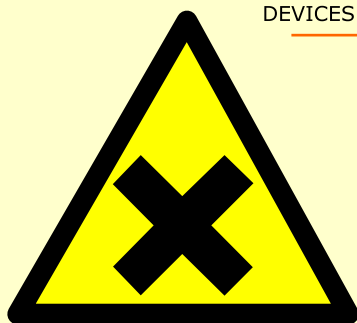
2026 UTME in foreign centre.



JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has reaffirmed its stance against examination malpractice by restating the ban on certain items during the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). These items as identified by the Board, are prohibited from examination venues due to their potential to aid in malpractice. Some of these prohibited items are but not limited to:



Caution
Prohibited items



1
MOBILE PHONES
OR SIMILAR
ELECTRONIC
DEVICES



2
WATCHES



3
PEN/BIRO



4
SPY READING
GLASSES WHICH
SHOULD BE
SCRUTINIZED



5
CALCULATORS
OR SIMILAR
ELECTRONIC
DEVICES



6
USB, CD, HARD
DISKS AND OR
SIMILAR STORAGE
DEVICES



7
BOOKS OR
ANY READING/
WRITING
MATERIAL



8
CAMERAS



9
RECORDERS



10
MICROPHONES



11
EAR PIECES



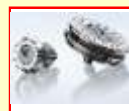
12
INK/PEN
READERS



13
SMART LENSES



14
SMART RINGS/
JEWELLERY



15
OTHER SIMILAR
DEVICES

The prohibition of these items is aimed at safeguarding the integrity of the UTME and preventing examination malpractice.

Over the years, these items have been noted to facilitate cheating among candidates and their collaborators. By banning them, JAMB intends to uphold the sanctity of its examinations and ensure fairness for all candidates.

The Board has reiterated its commitment to zero tolerance for examination malpractice. Any candidate or official found in possession of any of these prohibited items will face appropriate sanctions, which may include disqualification from the examination or legal action. These measures are intended to serve as a deterrent to potential offenders and maintain the credibility of the UTME results.

The restatement of the ban on prohibited items for the 2026 UTME underscores JAMB's determination to combat examination malpractice and uphold the integrity of its examinations. It is imperative for candidates and officials to adhere strictly to these regulations to ensure a fair and transparent examination process. JAMB's continued vigilance in enforcing these measures is crucial for maintaining the credibility and reliability of the UTME results.

TO BE FOREWARNED IS TO BE FOREARMED!!!

JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

National Headquarters Complex, Suleja Road, Bwari, P.M.B. 189, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.

Tel: 08123658955, 08166335513 <http://www.jamb.gov.ng>

PROF. IS-HAQ O. OLOYEDE, 

Registrar/Chief Executive



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

No. 2024ff.04

6th May, 2024

MANDATORY USE OF THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (NIN) FOR REGISTRATION WITH JAMB BY CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR NON-REGULAR PROGRAMMES

This Advisory is issued to all the concerned institutions, and candidates desirous of applying to study under the non-regular mode of study in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

As part of measures to checkmate the nefarious activities of fraudulent characters, who are scheming to compromise candidates' records through dubious registration channels and in compliance with its enabling act, JAMB has mandated that all applicants desirous of studying in Nigerian tertiary institutions must provide their NIN while registering for any programme of study in any tertiary institution in Nigeria irrespective of whether the mode of study is **regular and non-regular**.

2. Consequently, it has now become mandatory for all prospective candidates in the **non-regular category (NOUN, Distance Learning, Part-time and Sandwich programmes)** to create a profile code, before registering with JAMB, by sending their NIN, through their unique phone number to either of the Board's sort code (55019 or 66019).
3. Immediately after the creation of profile, each candidate will proceed to a CBT Centre for registration. After the registration, the candidate's details will appear on the CAPS of the institution of choice under non-regular admission. The institution will then propose and recommend to the Board for approval and the candidate will accept and print admission letter.
4. Furthermore, all previous candidates in the non-regular programmes, who had not integrated their NIN or unique phone number on the Board's platform, would have to create a profile using their respective NINs to access any of the services of the Board.
5. No candidate can use the process to change any of the data already supplied to the Board.
6. JAMB, as a responsive organisation that is conscious of the peculiarities of the non-regular studies, will continue to make the registration process as flexible as possible by making its platform available throughout the year. It is, therefore, expected that candidates, who fall under this category, will apply through JAMB before approaching their preferred institutions to process their admission with their respective JAMB registration numbers. They would also be expected to pay their preferred institution a processing fee as determined by the respective institutions.
7. Please be guided for compliance.

SGD

Registrar

...JEOG Hosts First Stakeholder Engagement On Admitted Underage Students

expert assessment interview.

In a keynote address titled: "Exceptional Minds, Enabling Environments: JAMB's Commitment to the Success of Underage Students in Nigerian Higher Education" the Registrar, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, pointed out that the engagement, convened under sub-

theme: "Achieving Success in Higher Education of Underage Students Admitted in the 2025/2026 Session," represents an important milestone in the ongoing national conversation on exceptional academic talent, child development, educational policy, and institutional responsibility within the Nigerian higher education

system.

He enunciated the various roles for tertiary institutions, parents and guardians, the underage students themselves, and the society in general.

"It is precisely because of these realities that the Board considered it necessary not merely to admit

Contd in Pg 18

Contd From Pg 1

...Prof Oloyede Has Set High Standards For Other Chief Executives - Minister of State for Education

emulate.

The Minister gave this commendations in her remarks at the 2026 Policy Meeting on Admissions into Tertiary Institutions in the country held at the Body of Benchers, Abuja, on 11th May, 2026.

She lauded the efforts of the Registrar especially for changing the trajectory of JAMB over the past 10 years noting that is a result of Prof. Oloyede's selflessness and hard work.

Prof. Ahmad assured the Registrar that there are other opportunities awaiting him as he round up his tenure.

She commended the Board for hosting the event on an annual basis without fail, stating that the forum had enabled stakeholders to gather and deliberate on issues bordering on

admissions into tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

On the issue of adherence to guidelines and access, she praised JAMB for instituting the NATAP-M Awards, which, she described as a vehicle capable of fostering healthy competition among stakeholders, noting that quality education is crucial to meeting the manpower needs of the country.

Also, the Minister urged participants to strengthen and support all efforts aimed at eliminating examination malpractice and to ensure that every qualified Nigerian student is given a fair opportunity to pursue higher education in an environment that promotes excellence and character development.

She equally stressed the importance

of aligning admissions with national manpower needs amid emerging global realities adding that Institutions must, therefore, prioritize programmes that equip graduates with relevant skills, entrepreneurial competences, digital literacy, and the capacity to contribute meaningfully to national development in the 21st century economy.

Against this backdrop, the Minister stated that the Federal Minister of Education is committed to strengthening teacher education and boosting the population of teachers given the newly-introduced dual mandate system of education in the country. She, therefore, commended the Board for its commitment to excellence in all its operational processes.

INSTITUTIONS SET MINIMUM TOLERABLE ADMISSIBLE UTME SCORES FOR 2026/2027 SESSION

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has announced the 2026/2027 national minimum tolerable scores for admission to tertiary institutions in Nigeria, fixing 150 for universities and colleges of nursing, and 100 for polytechnics.

The decision was announced at the 2026 Policy Meeting on Admissions to Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria after a brainstorming session.

The meeting, which had Vice-Chancellors, Rectors, Provosts and other stakeholders in attendance, was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Education,

Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa.

After intense deliberations, the participants had unanimously agreed that the National Minimum Tolerable Scores for Admissions into Universities should be 150, Colleges of Nursing, 150, and Polytechnics, 100.

The Board, however, stated that institutions which had fixed higher minimum scores for their programmes would be permitted to retain them. Nonetheless, no institution would be allowed to admit candidates who scored below the approved national benchmark or the minimum score prescribed by the

institution itself, provided such institutional benchmark is not lower than the nationally approved minimum tolerable score. Institutions may adopt higher marks, but under no circumstances would they be allowed to lower the score.

Similarly, Heads of Institutions are warned to desist from conducting admission outside the Board's Central Admissions Processing System (CAPS) adding that any admissions done outside the platform is null and void and will attract appropriate sanctions.

...JEOG Hosts First Stakeholder Engagement On Admitted Underage Students

exceptionally-gifted underage candidates, but also to establish mechanisms for sustained engagement, monitoring, evidence gathering, and institutional collaboration regarding their educational experiences.

"This stakeholder engagement is, therefore, not an isolated event, but part of a broader effort to ensure that policy decisions relating to exceptional children are informed by evidence, developmental realities, and measurable outcomes," he said. The Registrar, however, noted that some universities, including the University of Lagos and University of Ibadan, still strictly uphold the 16-

year admission benchmark set out in extant educational policies regardless of academic brilliance.

The engagement featured three technical sessions. The first is on "Education Experts' Perspectives" anchored by Prof Uchenna Maristella Nzewi of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Prof Foluso Okebukola of Lagos State University, and Prof Grace Eno Nta of the University of Calabar.

The second session centred on "Child Rights and Child Protection Perspectives" moderated by Mrs. Anne Ekanem, Deputy Director with the FCT Education Secretariat; and Head of the Monitoring and

Rehabilitation Services Division, Mrs. Hafsat Ibrahim Saleh, Special Needs Education Specialist and Head of the Special Equipment Operations & Management Unit; and Mr. James Aluku Ashiwel, an Assistant Chief Education Officer with the FCT Administration and a dedicated Special Needs Educator.

While the third session, also on "Child Rights and Child Protection perspectives" was anchored by Prof. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, former DG, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS); and Professor Olanrewaju Adigun Fagbohun, SAN, former Vice-Chancellor, Lagos State University.

Contd From Pg 6

...Senators Dandutse, Shuaibu Pay Glowing Tributes To Oloyede Led JAMB

Oloyede.

The senators spoke at the 2026 Policy Meeting on Admissions into Tertiary Institutions and the 6th Edition of the National Tertiary Admissions Performance-Merit (NATAP-M) Awards.

Speaking at the event, Senator Dandutse stated that the Senate remained committed to supporting the laudable initiatives of the Board and the nation's education sector in general.

He commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his commitment to education, particularly through the establishment of the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), aimed at ensuring that no child is denied access to quality education on account of financial constraints. He also lauded the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, for introducing commendable policies designed to strengthen the education sector.

According to him, his committee stands ready to support any worthwhile initiative with the necessary legislative backing.

Similarly, Senator SAS, in his remarks, described the occasion as akin to a graduation ceremony, noting that the Registrar of JAMB, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, would soon be concluding his decade-long stewardship of the Board.

He acknowledged that the journey had not been without challenges, recalling the first Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) conducted under Prof. Oloyede in 2017 and the attendant difficulties experienced at the time. According to him, such challenges might have compelled some chief executives to resign, but Prof. Oloyede, with the support of the then Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, persevered, overcame the obstacles, and ultimately succeeded.

Senator SAS observed that, nine years later, there was ample reason to celebrate, as the system had become largely stabilised. He expressed optimism that, upon leaving office, Prof. Oloyede would be called to even greater national service in due course.

He further urged the Registrar's eventual successor to consolidate on the achievements already recorded, particularly the remarkable increase in admission rates, which he noted had risen from about half a million successful admissions annually to well over one million.

The senator attributed the milestone largely to the foresight and administrative ingenuity of Prof. Oloyede, especially through the introduction of the Central Admissions Processing System (CAPS) in 2017, to which he noted he also contributed in his capacity then as an IT consultant to the Board.

Contd From Pg 1

...GRAMMAR CHECK

director is also your uncle i.e there is only one subject).

However, if there is a determiner and it is repeated before two or more singular subjects joined by 'and',

then you have to use the plural form of the verb.

E.g. My Director and my uncle know the truth (the repetition of the determiner 'my' shows that the

Director is a different person from your uncle i.e. there are now two subjects)



...2026 NATAP-M AWARDS: UNIJOS Wins N500m Mega Prize

points behind Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (ABU), having emerged as the best institution with an aggregate of 6 points in the overall category comprising the five elements of the mega award. However, the grand prize had to be ceded to the first runner-up because no winner-institution of the award can be given the award within five years of previously winning it to curtail the incidence of consecutive winnings by any particular institution. As a consequence of this tacit agreement, ABU, Zaria, was, therefore, given a consolation prize of ₦40million naira. In the same vein, three institutions emerged as 3rd position winners. They are: Lagos State University, Ojo,

Lagos State, which emerged as the Second Runner-up institution with an aggregate of 3 points in the overall category comprising all the five elements of the Mega Award and winning the ₦25million naira cash prize. Next is Akwa Ibom State University Ikot-Akpaden, Akwa Ibom State, which also emerged as the Second Runner-up institution with an aggregate of 3 points in the overall category comprising all the five elements of the Mega Award and winning the ₦25million naira prize. The third was the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, that emerged as the Second Runner-up institution with an aggregate of 3 points in the overall category comprising all the five elements of the Mega Award winning ₦25million naira in the

process. In the sectoral award, Polytechnic, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna, Kaduna State, came first having emerged as the best polytechnic with an aggregate of 6 points in the polytechnics category comprising all the five elements of the Mega Award winning the sum of ₦50million naira. Also, in the sectoral award, Colleges of Education, Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan-Waya, Kafanchan, Kaduna State, takes 1st position having emerged as the Best College of Education with an aggregate of 6 points in the Colleges of Education category comprising all five elements of the Mega Award to win the prize of ₦50million naira.

2026 POLICY MEETING ON ADMISSIONS AND THE 6TH EDITION OF NATAP-M AWARD IN PICTURES



MORE PICTURES OF THE 2026 POLICY MEETING ON ADMISSIONS AND THE 6TH EDITION OF NATAP-M AWARD



MORE PICTURES OF THE 2026 POLICY MEETING ON ADMISSIONS AND THE 6TH EDITION OF NATAP-M AWARD



ATTENTION!!!

THE NEW NOMENCLATURE FOR THE BOARD'S OFFICE AND OUTSTATION DIRECTORS

S/N	Zonal Office	Office's Acronym	Nomenclature of Head of Office	Director's Acronym
1.	Abuja Zonal Office	AZO	Zonal Director, Abuja	ZDA
2.	Bauchi Zonal Office	BZO	Zonal Director, Bauchi	ZDB
3.	Lafia Zonal Office	LZO	Zonal Director, Lafia	ZDL
4.	Maiduguri Zonal Office	MZO	Zonal Director, Maiduguri	ZDM
5.	Kano Zonal Office	KZO	Zonal Director, Kano	ZDK
6.	Port Harcourt Zonal Office	PZO	Zonal Director, Port Harcourt	ZDP
7.	Ibadan Zonal Office	IZO	Zonal Director, Ibadan	ZDI
8.	Benin Zonal Office	NZO	Zonal Director, Benin	ZDN
9.	Sokoto Zonal Office	SZO	Zonal Director, Sokoto	ZDS
10.	Enugu Zonal Office	EZO	Zonal Director, Enugu	ZDE
11.	Owerri Zonal Office (HA)	OWZO (HA)	Zonal Director (HA), Owerri	ZDOW
12.	Lagos Zonal Office (HA)	LGZO (HA)	Zonal Director (HA), Lagos	ZDLG
13.	Ilorin Zonal Office (HA)	LRZO (HA)	Zonal Director (HA), Ilorin	ZDLR
14.	Kaduna Zonal Office (HA)	KDZO (HA)	Zonal Director (HA), Kaduna	ZDKD