

21st September 2023

**ADDRESS OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,  
PROF. TAHIR MAMMAN, SAN, *CON* AT THE SYMPOSIUM  
ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLORS  
OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER,  
2023 AT CVCNU SECRETARIAT, WUSE 2, ABUJA**

I consider it a great honour to be invited to address you on this very important gathering of prominent stakeholders in the Nigerian Higher Education Sector. This two-day symposium is another excellent opportunity for all stakeholders in Nigerian University Education Sector to come together, reflect, take stock, explore and learn new strategies for furthering the development of sound University education system in Nigeria.

I wish to state emphatically that the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (CVCNU) plays a crucial role in providing a platform for the cross-fertilization of ideas on how to reposition Nigerian Universities to attain global recognition and excellence. This Committee provides an intellectual platform for exchanging and discussing cross-cutting issues on Nigerian University system in particular, and the Nigeria's Education Sector in general. I congratulate the CVCNU for the excellent efforts, and for bringing us together once again.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this topic, Higher Education, which you have asked me to discuss, is apt and timely in view of its far-reaching implication on the policy direction of the "Renewed Hope Agenda" of the current administration in the education sector. Higher education, according to National Policy on Education (FGN, 2013), is the Post -Secondary Education given by the Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Technology, Colleges of Education, Innovation Enterprise Institutions, Correspondence Colleges and such Institutions as may be

allied to them. It is an education designed to produce manpower for the social, economic and technological development of the country.

It is however, unfortunate that our higher education sub-sector is plagued with many challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, inadequate infrastructural facilities, shortage of academic staff, strike actions, brain-drain, poor research, weak governance and insecurity, among others. You will agree with me that, the higher education landscape in Nigeria requires a total overhaul so that it can effectively put Nigeria universities and other levels of tertiary institutions at par with others around the globe.

The current administration under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, fully understands the enormity of challenges of Nigeria's higher education and fully prepared to confront them headlong. It is against this backdrop that Mr. President has promised to improve the education budget to 25 per cent with the right policies in place. It was also towards the realization of the 'Renewed Hope Agenda' of the current administration that I recently inaugurated an eight-man committee, headed by Engr. (Dr.) Nuhu Yakubu, to provide a roadmap for the education sector.

We need to understand that before we can harness our human resources, we need to be sure of what we need to do to fill in the gaps that have, over the years, inexplicably pulled us back. We need to know the extent at which we have met contemporary demands of tertiary education globally and if it is not sufficient, how to address them. I passionately appeal to the Roadmap Committee of the Vice-Chancellor of Nigerian Universities to provide the