



WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROF. PAULINUS CHIJOKE OKWELLE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AT THE NATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCURRENT RUNNING OF NCE AND DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION HELD ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025 AT NCCE AUDITORIUM.

Protocol

1. It is with great honour and delight that I warmly welcome you all to *this National Summit on the implementation of Concurrent Running of NCE and Degree Programmes in Colleges of Education*, organized by the National Commission for Colleges of Education in collaboration with the Committee of Provosts and the Staff Unions of Colleges of Education across Nigeria.
2. On behalf of the NCCE and our partners, I extend special recognition and welcome to the Executive Governor of Niger State, His Excellency, **Umaru Mohammed Bago**, Chairman, Senate Committee of Tertiary Institution and Tetfund, Distinguished **Senator Muntari Mohammed Dandutse**, Chairman, House Committee on Federal Colleges of Education, **Hon. Adamu Tanko**, Honourable Minister of Education, **Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, OON**; the Honourable Minister of State for Education, **Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad**; the Permanent Secretary, **Mr. Abel Olumuyiwa Enitan**; distinguished discussants, scholars, Provosts, union leaders, guests and all stakeholders present at this very important gathering.

3. This summit is indeed historic. **The Federal Colleges of Education (Establishment) Act No. 43 of 2023**, graciously signed into law by His Excellency, **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**, has expanded the mandate of our Colleges of Education to concurrently run both the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) and Bachelor's Degree programmes in Education. This landmark reform, which we proudly describe as the **Dual Mandate**, is a turning point in teacher education in Nigeria.
4. For decades, Colleges of Education partnered with universities to offer degrees. Today, with full legislative backing, they now have the autonomy to do so directly, leveraging on their own manpower, infrastructure, and academic expertise.
5. The significance of this reform cannot be overstated. The Dual Mandate will:
- Revitalize our Colleges of Education and strengthen teacher education in Nigeria;
 - Expand access for student-teachers while producing graduates with both NCE and B.Ed qualifications, thereby making them more competent and versatile;
 - Provide a steady supply of qualified teachers for both Basic and Secondary Education; and
 - Attract and retain highly skilled teacher educators within the system.

6. The NCCE, alongside the **National Universities Commission (NUC)**, will continue to regulate, set standards, accredit programmes, and harmonize entry requirements to guarantee the quality of both NCE and Degree certificates. However, these bodies cannot achieve success in isolation. The active collaboration of **JAMB, TRCN, TETFund, UBEC**, and other key stakeholders—in admissions, quality assurance, infrastructural development, human capacity building, and graduate employability—remains critical to the full realization of this reform.
7. Together, through synergy, collaboration, and a shared commitment to excellence, we can make this reform succeed and establish a new benchmark for teacher education in Nigeria.
8. Let me, therefore, commend the Federal Ministry of Education, under the visionary leadership of the Honourable Minister, **Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, OON**, for providing invaluable policy direction and unwavering support—from the passage of the Federal Colleges of Education Act, 2023, to this current implementation phase.
9. Our profound appreciation also goes to the **National Assembly** for their foresight in passing this landmark legislation. I equally salute the **Committee of Provosts** and the **Unions** for their tireless advocacy and dedication.

10. Let me also extend special congratulations to today's awardees—**true champions of the Dual Mandate**—whose contributions and dedication continue to inspire us all.
11. Distinguished colleagues, this summit provides us with a unique platform to deliberate on strategies, share perspectives, and chart a united course for the successful implementation of this transformative reform. With the calibre of expertise and experience in this hall, I am confident that our discussions will yield practical, impactful, and sustainable outcomes.
12. I welcome you once again and wish us all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you and God bless.

Prof. Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle
Executive Secretary