REPORT OF EVENTS AT THE KOGI STATE M.O.E.S.T. TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR PRINCIPALS AND SCHOOL COUNSELORS CAREER GUIDANCE FOR FINAL YEAR STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2020 AT LOKOJA

ATTENDANCE

The program was held at the event hall of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST), Lokoja, Kogi State on Tuesday, 27th October, 2020 and in attendance was the Commissioner of Education, represented by Mrs. Regina Ogbodo.

The Commissioner, Permanent Secretary and Director of Technical Education were unavoidably absent as the had a State function outside the State capital where a school was being taken over by the Federal Government as a Federal school of science and technology.

Also, in attendance was the Director, NABTEB, Mrs. P. O. Ajibili and many other dignitaries and officials of the Ministry and other agencies.

The four technical schools in the State had their Principals, Guidance and Counsellor teachers and three students per school in attendance. The Ministry had requested for three students per school and each came with two males and a female.

The technical school, Idah arrived a little after the program had started as they had a technical challenge with their vehicle and had to switch to another car in other to be in attendance. The
driver of the faulty car, is a teacher of the school and also carrying on commercial activities with his car. He later joined the program after repairing his car in order to return them back.

PROGRAM

The program started at 11AM with a welcome address of the Commissioner, (copy of address is attached herewith) and thereafter, James Idih on behalf of dRPC/Open Society Foundation also welcome the participants and explained the exigencies for the program as being founded on the changing trends in the workplace and the society at large and the necessity to place a high premium on technical skills for self-reliance.

The Director of NABTEB also welcome the attendees. She identified some of the challenges facing technical schools as steaming from wrong perception of the society and parents who preferred their wards to graduate from the conventional schools. The schools have witnessed their final year students suddenly abandoning their schools in preference for the conventional schools and to curb this, they have introduced all the subjects being offered at the conventional schools into the technical schools so that the schools can have the benefits together with their technical studies.

PAPERS

Two papers were presented by the trainers. The first by Mr. James Akodi while the second by Mrs. Tessy Fadile Esq. (The two papers are attached herewith).

James Idih also spoke on ‘Business Packaging and Financing’ where he identified the various types of business registrations, their advantages and how businesses can be funded.

After each presenter, the audience were allowed to either make contributions or ask questions. This they did. The schools especially took the opportunity to adumbrate on their challenges to include low number of final year students as a result of migration to conventional schools. This problem they traced the foundation to the past two previous administration of the State which offered to pay the cost of WAEC and NECO for final year students without commensurate payments for the technical students.

They are also faced with low numbers of technical teaching staff as a result of retirement and transfer of service without replacement. To some these problems, some of the principals had to recourse to adhoc employment of casual staff and in some instances, beg the retired staff to put in some weekly manhours to avoid the departments going into extinction. Some departments have had to be closed due to this absence of teaching staff and technical equipment.

The Schools are also faced with dilapidated buildings and lack of equipment. The school at Mopa, has a good face-lift from the effort of a spirited individual but all the others are a ghost of their past.

The Commissioner noted these challenges and promised addressing them. On the issue of transfer of staff, they had recently put a stop to it.

VOTE OF THANKS:

The participants were all excited with the program and they abundantly acknowledged that with deep gratitude to the sponsors of it. Their gratitude steam from;
They have not witnessed such an event especially for technical schools;

· The schools having the opportunity to cry out with their challenges;

· The quality of resource persons and materials;

· They all went home with some cash allowance (Kogi staff and people are challenged financially).

They prayed for a repeat of this program.

dRPC and Dr. Judith Walker, personally I was impressed with the program and I sincerely offer my thanks and appreciation for the opportunity. Indeed, it was an eye opener.

Thanks.