

Future Workers Project Report On Selected Schools In Plateau State

Introduction

The dRPC in its initiative towards promoting vocational and technical education, collaborated with the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) to directly support government schools in activities intended at improving NABTEB examination outcomes. In this initiative, small grants are provided to schools towards helping them to enhance processes which will help students to prepare and do well during the examinations nationwide.

I have been engaged as a coordinator, mentor and supervisor of the grant aided the selected schools in Plateau State. The task entails ensuring that the schools use the funds in:

- i. Engaging the students in extra lessons in preparation for the examinations
- ii. Purchase necessary textbooks and past question papers to prepare for the exams
- iii. Purchase of internet for students to access online resources
- iv. Purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for both staff and students for use in protection of the Covid-19 during both extra lessons and examinations.

Also, as mentor, I will be assessing and ensuring that the schools utilise the funds granted them in pursuit of the NABTEB examinations.

Brief Profile of the Schools

1. Government Science and Technical College, Bukuru was established in the year 1953 as Government Trade Centre, but was later changed to Government Technical College Training School in 1962, and then in 1979 to Government Technical College Bukuru. Later in 2004 it was now designated as the Government Science and Technical College, Bukuru. The College is a state-owned Technical College for the award of Vocational and Professional Certificates under the Plateau State Ministry for Education.

Entry qualification: Candidates must have passed the JSCE with required credits in Maths, English, Introductory Tech, Interg. Science, in addition to the prescribed examination conducted by NABTEB before admission into College

Courses/ programmes of study

- i. Agricultural Mechanization
- ii. Furniture Craft Practice
- iii. Refrigeration and Air/Conditional Works
- iv. Welding and Fabrication Craft Practice
- v. Carpentry and Joinery
- vi. Radio and Television Works
- vii. Mechanical Engineering Craft Practice
- viii. Motor Vehicle Mechanics
- ix. Building Construction
- x. Plumbing and Pipe Fitting

xi. Electrical Installation

General studies

- a. English Language
 - b. Mathematics
 - c. Physics
 - d. Chemistry
 - e. Civic Education
 - f. Introductory to computer Education
2. Government Jnr/Snr Secondary School Kanadap is a public junior and senior secondary located in Kuru, in Jos South Local Government Area, Plateau State. Presently with a population of 108 male students and 91 female students making a total of 199 students. The school further has 16 teachers, 12 classrooms, and introduced the NABTEB syllabus and examinations in 2018 as an added route for technical self-reliance, being that most of the student, who are from within the community are more adept to engage in vocations other than higher education.

Courses/ programmes of study for NABTEB

- I. Fishery
- II. Building/Engineering Drawing
- III. Mathematics
- IV. English Language
- V. Civic Education
- VI. Economics
- VII. Data Processing
- VIII. Marketing
- IX. Office Practice
- X. CRS
- XI. Government
- XII. Biology
- XIII. Physics
- XIV. Chemistry
- XV. Agricultural Science
- XVI. Commerce
- XVII. Geography
- XVIII. I.C.T
- XIX. Literature-In-English

AWARD AND INCEPTION CEREMONY

Government Science Technical School Bukuru

On Friday the 11th of September, the team, under the leadership of Dr. Emmanuel Musa and a number of staff of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) including Dr. Dinju and Mr. Atiku, visited the two successful schools in Plateau State. At the Government Science Technical School Bukuru, the team met with the principal Mr. Nantim Larsen, the Zonal Inspector of Education Mrs. Dashe and the schools project coordinator Mr. Stephen Ngari. The award ceremony was brief and was held in the school's assembly hall with students who had resumed in preparation for the NABTEB examinations.



Figure 1 Cross section of students at GSTC Bukuru at the ceremony



Figure 2 Dr. Emmanuel Musa presenting the Award Letter to the Principal Mr Nantim Larson at GSTS Bukuru

Government Secondary School Kanadap, Kuru

Similarly, Government Secondary School Kanadap, Kuru, the ceremony was short. The team met with the principal Mr Martins Mancha, the Parents teachers Association chairman, Mr. Davou Stephen Baga and Mr. Adamu Bari the schools project coordinator.



Figure 3 Dr. Musa making brief speech at the award presentation in Kanadap



Figure 4 Presentation of award letter at GSS Kanadap

At the first official contact with the coordinators of the two schools, on Tuesday 15th September, both coordinators made me aware that the payments of the first tranche of N100,000 had been credited to their school accounts. While Mr. Bari added that his principal had promised to make withdrawals by Wednesday for them to access materials the following day, Mr Ngari noted that they had not met as departmental heads to discuss about the funds, so he couldn't be specific about when they intended to utilize the funds to make purchases.

Mr. Barry gave me a call on the 16th of September informing me of purchases they had made with the withdrawn funds, and he invited me the next day (17th September) to meet with the students as they made the presentations and had extra lessons. Among the purchases were;

1. Text books
2. Past examination question papers
3. Technical drawing instruments
4. Face Masks and Sanitizers

Staff should take note of their duty days and comply accordingly.

**GSS KANADAP
NABTEB LESSON TIMETABLE**

	8:00AM - 8:45AM	8:45AM - 9:30AM	9:30AM - 10:15AM	10:15AM - 11:00AM	11:00AM - 11:45AM	11:45AM - 12:30PM	12:30PM - 1:15PM
MONDAY 14/9/2020	MATHS	ECONOMICS	FISHERY	CHEMISTRY	CHEMISTRY	ICT	ECONOMICS
TUESDAY 15/9/2020	ENGLISH	CIVICS	CHEMISTRY	COMMERCE	BUILDING DRAWING	FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING	MATHEMATICS
WED 15/9/2020	GOVERNMENT SCIENCE	AGRIC SCIENCE	GEOGRAPHY LITERATURE	MARKETING	MARKETING	OFFICE PRAC.	MATHEMATICS
THURS 18/9/2020	ICT	MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH	CHEMISTRY	CHEMISTRY	BUILDING ENG. (T.B)	FISHERY
FRIDAY 19/9/2020	ENGLISH	CIVICS	GEOGRAPHY LITERATURE	COMMERCE	COMMERCE	ACC. BIOLOGY	ECONOMICS
SAT. 20/9/2020	AGRIC SCIENCE	BUILDING ENG. (T.B)	GOVERNMENT PHYSICS	MARKETING	MARKETING	BIOLOGY C.A.S.	ECONOMICS



Mr Stephen Ngari called to inform me that the GSTS team had met and agreed that rather than they expend the funds on textbooks, they would rather concentrate on hand sanitizers and facemasks. Their reason being that the money would not be conveniently spent on the appropriate textbooks and would rather meet the need for Covid-19 prevention.



Engaging the students in extra lessons in preparation for the examinations

The two schools, GSS Kanadap and GSTC Bukuru both engaged their students on preparing for examinations. While GSTC has well equipped workshops for practicals, GSS Kanadap is limited in this capacity, however due to their relatively close proximity, GSTC was magnanimous in supporting GSS Kanadap even before the COVID-19 lockdown, by periodical providing practical trainings with their machines.

GSS Kanadap



In GSS Kanadap, the school emphasised on what they described as “Alternatives to Practical” (AtP) scenarios, this is based on the fact as described in the last paragraph, they lacked most of the equipment for these actual practicals. A major deficit has been the damage (due to a rainstorm) of their school hall/workshop since 2018, and its abandonment, which has led to its further deterioration.

The extra lessons however went on without a hitch. GSS Kanadap had 21 teachers who participated in the extra lessons. For each day, an attendance sheet was made available with dates, signatures and phone numbers. This enabled the school to monitor the attendance and activities of the teachers. Furthermore, the students were engaged with past examination questions and texts

relevant to the upcoming examination.



The extra lessons were started on the 19th of September 2020, and they were conducted under strict Covid-19 protocols of hand washing, social distancing and the use of facemasks.

GSTC Bukuru

Unlike GSS Kanadap, GSTC Bukuru has an older history of technical education training. The availability of equipment and tools (although many are either spoilt or wearing off) makes it the premium technical institution in the state.

The principal noted that it has been common for the college to run extra lessons not just for its students but in support of schools that also participate in the NABTEB examinations, this has afforded the school the status of a “centre of excellence” in technology education.

As noted earlier, GSTC supported GSS Kanadap in trainings for practical’s and also in providing (at a price) past question papers for the examinations.

All teaching staff in GSTC were involved in the extra lessons conducted prior to the examinations.



Purchase of textbooks, past question papers and Internet to prepare for the exams

The two schools made purchases of textbooks and (or) question papers. As noted above GSTC having more experience with NABTEB examinations, had an assortment of past questions which it readily made available to other schools, for a photocopying fee. One of such schools being GSS Kanadap. Both schools used part of the allocated funds to purchase textbooks and some instructional material, while the remaining part of the funds were used to purchase internet data for computers and also acquire personal protective equipment that were used during both the extra lessons and the NABTEB examinations.