

**EXPANDING THE NOVEL ORBITS AND THE REACH OF ADULT LEARNING
AND EDUCATION FOR HUMANIZATION
BEING AN
ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT, NIGERIAN
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION (NNCAE) DR BABANGIDA
LADAN AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2024 NNCAE ANNUAL
NATIONAL CONFERENCE (CALABAR, 2024) HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2024**

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Protocols

1. It is a great honour and privilege to address you today as the new National President of the Nigerian National Council for Adult Education (NNCAE). This year's conference is indeed a special conference, one of the reasons is that some 45 year ago, in 1979 the NNCAE had its Annual conference in Calabar during which elections were held where Prof. E. A. Tugbiyele the founding President of the NNCAE was replaced by Prof. James Ogunlade of the University of Lagos, the founding National Secretary Dr. J. T. Okedara was replaced by Dr. Odinakachukwu Okeem of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Malam Hamidu Erubu the National Editor was replaced by Dr. Micheal Omolewa. It is also a special conference because it is in this year's conference that we can see evidence of revival of the NNCAE in terms of the caliber of participants, notable stakeholders and friends in the Adult Education family attending this year's conference. Today, in this conference, we have the Honourable Minister of Education (Prof. Tahir Mamman, SAN, OON) serving as special guest and keynote speaker. We also have the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education, NMEC (Prof. Simon I. Akpama) serving as one of the Lead paper presenters. The Head of Office and Representative of UNESCO in Nigeria (Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo), the National President of Non-Governmental Association for Literacy Support Services (NOGALSS) (Mr. Noah Emmanuel), are also present at this conference. We also have many notable Adult Education academics and practitioners from far and near, across the length and breadth of Nigeria. The second Lead paper presenter (Prof. Kadiri Dugje) came from the University of Maiduguri over 1,400 kilometres away from Calabar.
2. The theme of this year's conference "Expanding the Novel Orbits and the Reach of Adult Learning and Education for Humanization" also makes it special, considering the fact that life in this 21st century is no longer business as usual, people need to create novel orbits and reach outs in order to live a sustainable life due to the acts of dehumanization facing our society. As Adult Educators, we need to understand that the contemporary society is hash and cannot be treated using traditional or known practices. Therefore, there is need for us to critically think both within and outside the box because majority of the victims of dehumanization are clients of Adult Education. Today in Nigeria, we have over 31% representing about 62 million out of the Nigeria's estimated 200 million are without literacy and over 18.3 million Nigerian children are out of school (UNICEF, 2024), all these are as a result of the dehumanization happening in our country for which we need to set a sustainable agenda. My dear colleagues, esteemed members of the NNCAE and indeed all other

participants in this year's conference, I am convinced that with the caliber of participants I have seen and the quality of papers received and that will be presented at this conference, we are going to come up with new orbits and expand the reach of Adult Learning and Education for humanization in Nigeria.

3. As a new set of executives, we have committed ourselves to continue the revival efforts started by the Prof. Fatima Umar and Prof. Kola Kazeem led executives of which in the last one year we have achieved the following:
 - i) Registration of the NNCAE with the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)
 - ii) Consolidation of the annual conference and publication of the National Council for Adult Education Journal.
 - iii) Reactivation of the NNCAE website (www.nncae.org), digitization of the membership list and increasing its visibility globally
 - iv) Reactivating partnership with the National Assembly, UNESCO and NOGALSS
 - v) Keeping in touch with NMEC, UBEC and the FMOE
 - vi) Floating a Book of Readings in Honour of the Immediate Past President, Prof. L. K. Kazeem whose call for papers is still open up to the end of this month.
 - vii) Creating NNCAE State Chapters
 - viii) Opening paths of partnership between the NNCAE and ISCAE and other international organizations so that our members will be recognized at international events.
 - ix) Increased institutional membership of the council.

4. Despite the successes recorded by the council in the last one year, it is faced with the following challenges for which we request for the intervention of stakeholders to have a way forward:
 - i) Difficulty of getting the council officially registered with the CAC - but on this we must appreciate the House Committee on Alternative Education under the leadership of Hon. Arc. Almustapha Aliyu Abdullahi for the efforts in getting the council recognized by an act of the National Assembly.
 - ii) Paucity of funds- The activities of the council relied heavily on annual dues paid by members and supports received from NMEC and UBEC for which we call on UNESCO and other agents to support the council especially in publication of our journal and preparations for subsequent conferences.
 - iii) Lack of recognition by some relevant stakeholder - on this we call on the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that NNCAE is represented on the Boards of NMEC, Nomadic Education Commission, National Commission for Almajiri and Out of School Children and the Universal Basic Education Commission.

5. Your Excellencies, distinguished guests and participants, we are just one year in office today and below are some of the plans we have in the rest of our tenure:
 - i) Increasing the visibility of our journal in recognized online citation index.
 - ii) Hosting virtual workshops for building capacity of members.
 - iii) Strengthening the State branches and making them functional.

- iv) Strengthening our networks with relevant agencies to promote the visibility, understanding and practice of Adult Education in Nigeria through advocacy, media campaigns and publications.
6. It is worthy at this point to appreciate the Honourable Minister of Education, the Chairman House Committee on Alternative Education, Executive Secretary of NMEC and his team, Executive Secretary of UBEC, UNESCO, NOGALSS for their presence at this opening ceremony despite their tight official engagements. We also thank Prof. Kadiri Dugje our 2nd Lead paper presenter for agreeing to share his knowledge with us today. We also appreciate the Chief Host and the Vice Chancellor, University of Calabar Prof. Florence Banku Obi, Face, MNAE, JP and her entire management team for agreeing to host this conference. We appreciate the Host and the Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Science Education, University of Calabar, Prof Arikpo B. Arikpo. A big thank you to the Co-Host and Head Department of Continuing Education and Development Studies, University of Calabar, Dr. (Mrs) Love Joseph Asor, JP for her dedication and commitment towards hosting this conference. She has endured our phone calls, emails and requests throughout the preparatory days of this conference.
7. I will also want to use the opportunity to appreciate the entire executive members for their thoughts, support and encouragement, although, I look younger or junior to some of them yet they give me all the required support and loyalty. At this juncture, I want to join our members to mourn the death of Dr. A. A. Olojede of the IBB University, Lapai, our PRO who was very passionate about the activities of the council but did not live long to see this conference. The LOC at the University of Calabar under the leadership of Dr. Godwin B. Anthony are wonderful. They deserve a doff of the hat for their water-tight preparations and ensuring a well-organized conference.
8. Finally, I want to appreciate our members who have travelled from far and near and indeed those joining us online to participate in this conference. We wish each and every one of them more wisdom and safe return to respective destinations.
9. Thank you very much and God bless the NNCAE and the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

Dr. Babangida Ladan
National President
October, 2025