

8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 1



COMMITTEE ON TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND TETFUND

REPORT ON
COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE
NEW JAMB POLICY ON ADMISSION

JANUARY 2016

1.0 Introduction:

On Tuesday 17th November, 2015 the Senate adopted Resolution number S/Res/047/10/15 and directed the Committee on Tertiary Institution and TETFund to inquire into circumstances surrounding the new JAMB policy including all allegations of favouritism and review the power of JAMB *vis-a-vis* admissions.

1.1 The New JAMB Policy entails that a candidate will make a choice of one university, one Polytechnic and one college of Education and then seat for a computer based test (CBT) to gain admission into any tertiary institution in the Country. The advantages of Computer Based Testing (CBT) includes:

- * Elimination of problem associated with paper transmission;
- * Storage of test content eliminates associated risk of theft or accidental loss;
- * Encryption of test content through all stages of item development, banking and delivery;
- * Secure item authoring and banking tools;
- * Availability of end-to-end electronic audit trails showing who assessed what and when;
- * Automated form selection and randomization of items within forms – minimizing collusion and copying;
- * Innovative item types which are generally less susceptible to copying or memorization;
- * Hope for the disadvantaged Nigerian through CBT (blind, albino, prison inmate, physically challenged), etc.

1.2. The Committee held a meeting and deliberated on the terms of reference and resolved to invite all the stakeholders to a meeting.

2.0 Meeting with Stakeholders

The Committee met with Ministers of Education, the Permanent Secretary, Heads of Department, Registrar of Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the Executive Secretary of National Commission for Colleges of Education and Directors of National University Commission.

2.1 The Ministers informed the Committee that the vacancies available in each tertiary institution, in other words the number of students that the facilities available can admit into a particular institution is the root cause of the challenges confronting students admission into tertiary institutions. The Hon. Minister equally said it is not the fault of JAMB neither the fault of the Ministry rather the government needs to find more money for more access to be created in the institutions.

2.2 JAMB led by the Registrar informed the Committee that its mandate is primarily to conduct examinations that place suitably qualified candidates into Tertiary Institutions. He Stated that, In line with its enabling law and approved guidelines, the Board (JAMB) ensures uniform standards in the conduct of matriculation examination and placement of suitably qualified candidates in the Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education, both public and private. The enabling law, Act. No.2 of 1978, establishing the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and the subsequent amendments in Act. No. 33 of 1989 and Act. No. 4 of 1993 spelt out the functions of the Board among others as:

- a. The general control of the conduct of matriculation examinations for admissions into all Universities, polytechnics (by whatever name called) and Colleges of Education (by whatever name called) in Nigeria.
- b. The appointment of examiners, moderators, invigilator, members of subject panels and committees and other persons with respect to matriculation examinations and any other matter incidental thereto or connected therewith;
- c. The placement of suitably qualified candidates into tertiary

- institutions after having taken into account;
 - (i) The vacancies available in each tertiary institution;
 - (ii) The guidelines approved for each tertiary institution by its proprietor or other competent authority;
 - (iii) the preferences expressed or otherwise indicated by candidates for certain tertiary institutions and courses; and
 - (iv) such other matters as the Board may be directed by the minister to consider or the Board itself may consider appropriate in the circumstances;
- d. The collection and dissemination of information on all matters relating to admissions into tertiary institutions or any other matter relevant to the discharge of the functions of the Board; and
- e. The carrying out of such other activities as are necessary or expedient for the full discharge of all or any of the functions conferred on it under or pursuant to the enabling law.

It is in line with this that the Board conducts Policy meeting on admissions every year under the chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Education in conjunction with tertiary institutions; and the regulatory agencies i.e. (NUC, NBTE and NCCE) to determine the guidelines and procedure for admission.

2.3 On the Resolution Urging the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to consult widely with Parents Teachers Association (PTA), Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and all other stakeholders in the education sector with a view to coming out with a friendlier holistic, comprehensive and sustainable admission policy.

JAMB submitted that looking at the statistical information generated from applications and admissions over the years, the Board was of the opinion that, there are lot of wastages of carrying capacities especially in Polytechnics, Colleges of Educations and private universities; hence it began consulting stakeholders on how to utilize these vacancies. It took a decision which is the new admission policy(a candidate will make a choice of one university, one Polytechnic and one college of Education and then seat for a computer based test) and presented same to the Governing Board made up of representatives of All Nigerian Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS),

National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), National Universities Commission (NUC), Provosts of Colleges of Education, Rectors of Polytechnics, Vice Chancellors of universities, three (3) government nominees, Federal Ministry of Education and other critical stakeholders' group for thorough discussions thereafter it was taken to the Policy Committee meeting.

JAMB further submitted that two separate meetings were held between officials of the Board and the Committee of Vice Chancellors which has in attendance, one representative each from the Federal, State and Private Universities. The idea was accepted in principle, and in its consultation drive, the issue came up at year 2015 Policy meeting on Admissions and was extensively discussed. Some of the Vice-Chancellors accepted it, while others kicked against. This led to the reversal of the new policy to allow for wider consultations so as to carry everybody along.

2.4 On the directive to the Committee to inquire into circumstances surrounding the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) policy including all allegations of favouritism and generally, review the power of JAMB vis-a-vis admissions; JAMB insist it maintains a very transparent and robust system that makes it impossible to favour any candidate. The Committee was informed that:

- a. Federal Government guidelines on admissions clearly states that 45% should be admitted purely on merit, 35% on Locality (Catchment) and 20% to Educationally Less Disadvantage States (ELDS for Federal Government owned institutions).
- b. Equally important, is the emphasis on Science to Arts ratio which reflects 60:40 Science/Arts ratio and 40% merit and 40% catchment and 20% less developed State for States Tertiary institutions.

In practice the Institutions (Universities Polytechnics and Colleges of education both public and private) do the selection and placement of candidates while JAMB then scrutinises to ensure compliance of A and B. The Private institutions will normally declare quota as approved by their Proprietors. Equally of note is the fact that there are many vacancies in the private institutions that are not taken up due to very high fees

charged by the schools. The Board has always carried out its admissions in an open forum where Heads of Tertiary Institutions converge and are briefed on the general performance of candidates in its examinations, instruments to adopt for admissions, recommendations on cut-off mark and other parameters for the smooth process of the exercise. The big

However, JAMB should create forum for all stakeholders to further deliberate on the issue.

- b. the enabling law establishing JAMB should be reviewed to accommodate the new policy.
- c. post-UTME should be stopped, Candidates who sat for JAMB examinations should not be subjected to further examinations by the tertiary institutions. Rather, the institutions should fashion out a system where the results of students during the first year will determine if they are capable to pursue the course of study;
- d. Since the curriculum for JAMB examination has a life span, result validity could be tied to existing JAMB curriculum; and the law amended accordingly.
- e. the carrying capacity of the existing tertiary institutions should be increased to make room for the admission of more qualified candidates.

2.8 The Association of tutorial School Operator submitted that UTME is expected to be an entrance exam and as such its validity should not be more than a year since the Exam is only to secure admission into a tertiary School. It is an exam based on cut-off marks and cut-off mark is dependent on the brilliance or success of the candidates in a particular year.

Furthermore the association submitted that, if the essence of introducing the new policy is to alleviate the suffering of parents on the money spent on exams, the fee should not be above Three Thousand Naira Only (3,000.00). The Board does no longer prints examination papers and do not pay many invigilators since the examination is Computer Based Test. According to their findings, JAMB pays about Five Hundred Naira (500:00) on each candidate to CBT centres. Equally change of institution and course form which candidates pay for, should be free.

The Association further submitted that Post UTME should be stopped since JAMB examination came into our system due to leakage of examination papers which has been eliminated by CBT. They insist that any school not satisfied with the UTME score and want to further examine the candidates admitted by JAMB should bear the cost and not pass it to the parents.

Equally burdensome is the issue of acceptance fee charged by universities after students are offered admission. The Association want the Senate to know that candidates pay a compulsory seven hundred naira (700:00) to fill the jamb form which is supposed to be filled free of charge.

3.0 Committee Findings:

1. The success of every admissions exercise depends mainly on the institutions and the admission quota approved for the School.
2. Admission quotas are determined yearly as a result of limited carrying capacity in the various tertiary institutions. This limited carrying capacity is a function of funding available to the entire education sector. Limitation in Funding does not allow for progression in carrying capacity.
3. Most candidates prefer to study in Universities than polytechnics and colleges of education thereby creating huge demand for University spaces while wasting the available spaces in the polytechnics and colleges of education. Also the high fees charged by the private universities makes them less attractive to parents.
4. Increasingly there are different layers of fees/expenses candidates incur while doing the JAMB examination.

4.0 Committee Recommendations:

4.1 On the Resolution Urging the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to consult widely, JAMB is already working proactively on this and only needs to get the information to the wider public before final decision is taken by the Education Ministry. Committee recommends that Joint Admission and Matriculation Board be informed to quickly conclude all actions on the policy before the conduct of the next JAMB examination.

4.2 On the directive to the Committee to inquire into circumstances surrounding the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) policy including all allegations of favouritism and, generally review the power of JAMB vis-a-vis admissions, JAMB insist they maintain a very transparent and robust system that makes it impossible to favour any candidate.

Also in practice the Institutions (Universities Polytechnics and Colleges of education both public and private) actually do the selection and placement of candidates while JAMB then scrutinises for compliance with the guidelines for the year. Therefore **Committee could not establish the allegations of favouritism levelled against Joint Admission and Matriculation Board. However as soon as Concrete decision is reached on the policy by Joint Admission and Matriculation Board, the Senate should then amend the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board act.**

4.3 On the Need to Extend Validity Period of JAMB examination from one to three years:

4.3.1 Committee recommends that JAMB entrance exam validity should not be more than a year rather the issue of carrying capacity

which ultimately determines admission quotas should be addressed immediately. This is an area that needs urgent intervention. The Committee knows that huge funds are necessary to run higher education. Therefore more funds should be appropriated based on real data of persons between the ages 18-35 which form the bulk of persons admitted into tertiary schools. This will provide more facilities such as class rooms, lecture halls, furniture, Libraries, laboratories, workstations, learning and teaching aids, hostels etc, thereby increasing the carrying capacity of the schools.

4.3.2 Committee equally recommends that Computer Laboratories be built and equipped in all the federal institutions for ease of writing the cbt.

4.3.3 Committee further recommends that JAMB fee should not exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Naira Only (2,500.00). Equally change of institution and course form and all other incidental activities around the exam should be free.

We so recommend.

SIGNATURE

1. **Sen. Binta Masi Garba**
Chairman

2. **Sen. Tijjani Yahaya Kaura**
Vice Chairman

3. **Sen. Mohammed Ubali Shitu**
Member

4. **Sen. Omogunwa O. Yele**
Member

5. **Sen. Clifford Ordia**
Member

6. **Sen. John Owan Enoh**
Member

7. **Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye**
Member

8. **Sen. Salihu Egye Hussain**
Member

9. **Sen. Aliyu M. Wamakko**
Member

10. **Sen. Shaaba Lafiagi**
Member

11. **Sen. Tinubu Oluremi Shade**
Member

12. **Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha**
Member

13. **Sen. Samuel O. Egwu**
Member

14. **Sen. Abaribe E. Harcourt**
Member

15. **Sen. Suleiman Nazif**
Member

16. **Sen. Kabiru Gaya**
Member

Mrs. Ngozi Nkemdirim
Clerk