



The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust

*Promoting friendship & understanding through financial support
for Nigerian education*

THE 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE BRITAIN-NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL TRUST

THURSDAY 23rd JULY 2026, 3.00pm

THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

PARK PLACE, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON SW1A

MINUTES

Attending:

1. Ambassador Amin Dalhatu, HC, NHC
2. Peju Abuchi
3. Bumni Adekoya
4. Michael Adeyeye
5. Christine M Afolabi
6. Babatunde Akinyanju
7. Mat Alistair
8. Jumoke Brown, NSF
9. Lady Juliet Atako-Gregory
10. Bimbola Babarinde, NSF
11. Segun Bamidele
12. [REDACTED]
13. Edward Hill
14. Alan J Hofman
15. Oladoyin Idowu
16. Caroline Kalu
17. E.G Large
18. Victoria Large
19. Professor Momodu Kassim-Momodu
20. Chidiebere Nsofor
21. Dr Obuaya
22. Dr Shirley Obuaya
23. Rita Odumosu
24. Kevin Rafferty
25. Mr Ayo Salami
26. Derek Sawyer
27. Mrs Eyono Fatayi Williams
28. Dr Victoria Oladimeji
29. Frances Tarr
30. Tony Williams

Trustees

- Item 1** **WELCOME**

Item 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Item 3 **TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
BNET CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – 23 JULY 2026

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As a small Charity with limited scope and our preferred emphasis on teacher training, it has been impossible for us to evaluate most of them. We also want to be as sure as possible that any grant we do give will be used for the positive advancement of as many Nigerian children as possible.

This means personal visits from our Trustees and Representative, before agreeing any grants and again, what with time and security constraints this is often difficult. Nevertheless, it is a vital part of our work and indeed we have had to end our sponsorship of two projects in this last year as our due diligence exposed issues that we felt excluded them from working with us.

So, we prioritise maintaining or expanding existing grants to established beneficiaries.

Some of them I am going to list here as follows, although a fuller description is always available on our website:

(i) N.T.I. KADUNA.

We have now completed our sponsorship of one serving teacher from each of the 36 States + FCT doing their 3-year online NCE course. We sponsor their 2nd & 3rd year fees provided they pass the minimum in their exams each year as well as award a prize of N100,000 to the best student at the end of the course. The prize is the Gary Clark prize named in honour and memory of our late Secretary. We will name the teacher who will receive this prize on our website later this year.

For follow up on this project, we remain indebted to Professor Kabiru Ilyasu who continues to monitor and handle our projects in the North.

As the NTI will no longer be organising the online NCE courses for serving teachers, this will be our final year of sponsorship.

We are in discussions with them as to how we can contribute to promoting teacher training and we expect to decide on this before the end of 2026 and I will hope to report more fully on this next year.

(ii) IBRA FOUNDATION SCHOOL – MIRINGA, BORNO STATE.

As I reported last year, our relationship with this school seems to me to be a template for the way BNET can work with schools to maximise the benefits to the school and to the Trust.

Introduced to the school via a member of the Nigerian High Commission here in London, during the height of the Boko Haram problems in the North-East, we have supported them for the last eight years with a range of annual projects proposed by the school management which we have financed.

For the school, knowing we will support them allows them to plan new projects or get help for unexpected setbacks which enables the school to grow. For BNET, we have the satisfaction of knowing our money is well spent and benefiting students that otherwise might not have that opportunity.

This year we have approved a grant of around N2m to refit their nursery & kindergarten classrooms that were badly damaged by flooding two years ago.

In principle we avoid building works but, in this case, we have made an exception, as we have absolute confidence in the school to use the funds as agreed and directed.

(iii) REEL FOUNDATION – LAGOS.

Again, this is an organisation we have supported for many years.

Members will recall they are based in the outskirts of Lagos and arrange after hours activities for local children combining fun & learning.

Their founder Ajoke Adeola attended our 2019 AGM and gave a wonderful review of how the organisation has grown over the last few years thanks, in part, to our sponsorship.

Last year we gave them a grant of N10m to support their work and will be doing so again to assist with operational expenses to give them digital literacy training.

(iv) DAILY DELIGHT MONTESSORI SCHOOL – LAGOS.

This is another initiative & project in its fourth year where we sponsor 15 children to attend this school whose parents would otherwise not be able to afford the fees.

This year they have been forced to move premises due to severe increases in rent, but they have found new premises, and we continue to sponsor the 15 children for a total of almost N7m.

(v) HOPE FOR THE VILLAGE CHILD FOUNDATION – KADUNA.

This is the Catholic organisation run by Sister Rita which we have supported for many years.

In her late eighties now, Sister Rita continues to live in Kaduna and run her Foundation that supports children's education in rural communities of South Kaduna.

Last year we gave them a grant to purchase various teaching aids – alphabet, number and colour flash cards which were distributed to various State schools in Kaduna State.

(vi) SOUGHT AFTER ACADEMY - ABEOKUTA.

This is a new beneficiary.

This is a private school but offering nursery and primary education to children of poor single mothers & parents/widows within the town.

Our representative, Engineer Ojieh, visited the school and we agreed a one-off grant of N2.5m to support various needs. They have now come back with further requests, and another visit will be scheduled but we have approved a further grant for N6m for various projects they have specified.

We continue to look for projects where we know the grant will go and where we know we may maintain some control, before deciding whether to continue to support them.

As always, I want to thank the work of the Trust's officers and the support of the Trustees and Members without which, none of the projects would have been successful.

Thanks especially to our Secretary Elizabeth Dudley and our Treasurer John Lee, who ensure the administration of the Trust is up to date and financially sound.

Above all, I thank again our Nigerian based Trustees, Engineer Greg Ojieh, Professor Kabiru Isyaku & Dele Fatayi-Williams.

Without their experienced, expert input & interventions in so many areas, BNET would be a far less effective organisation.

Finally, I thank Frances Tarr our retired administrator for coming out for the day to assist us, and Karen Sussex who runs & updates our website, sends out newsletters and has now also taken our membership administration under her efficient control.

And of course I thank all of the members, those of you who are here and those of you who could not make it for your continued support.

23-07-2026

Item 4

TO RECEIVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT & ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2026

Compared to the previous year, activity in 2025 was not too dissimilar to last year with the reduced movement with the Nigeria Naira exchange rate assisting.

Bank interest and investment decreased by 35 % to £ 4,337 reflecting reduction in interest rates & part liquidation of investments into cash, while voluntary income comprising membership subscriptions, tax reclaims and donations came to £ 5,930

[2024 £ 3,624], including Christmas card promotion.

Overall income for the year increased to £ 11,141 [£10,372].

Grants were £ 18,672 as against £ 18,020 in 2024.

Governance and supporting costs, including administrative expenses £ 24,954, a decrease from £26,347 in 2024.

Our overall Funds closing balance reduced to £ 177,288 as against in 2024 £204,721.

The Trustees are addressing as a priority the need to attract new members and donors.

Before closing the Treasurer explained that the full set of accounts are available for viewing on the BNET website and a summary on the Charities Commission website.

There being no further questions, the report of the Treasurer and Statement of Financial Activities for 2025 were approved by a show of hands of all members present.

Questions:

1. Tony Williams: regarding the liquidation of former BNA assets and whether there will there be GCT on these. JL: As a charity, BNET does not pay CGT.
2. Why was liquidation necessary in this context? Onerous Anti Money Laundering requirements for the investments have occurred over the last 2 years. To satisfy these requirements would subject BNET to costs which would be disproportional to the investments held. Liquidation of 3 of the 7 investments has therefore occurred with proceeds eventually showing as cash on the BNET bank account.
3. Peju Abuchi: The Chair mentioned disassociation with schools due to their not meeting due diligence issues and whether some schools may, in effect, become so self-sufficient that they no longer require support. DB asked that this question be moved to the official questions although the Trust has yet to meet a school that considers itself to be fully sufficient.

Item 5

The Chair confirmed Messrs. Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP have signified their willingness to continue as Independent Examiners of the Trust and JL proposed they be re-appointed for the ensuing year with Juliet Atako-Gregor seconding the motion. This was agreed by all members present.

Item 6

Under Cause 5(9) of the Constitution of the Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust, one third of the Board of Trustees retire annually at the Annual General Meeting. Those due to retire at this Annual General are **John Lee, Prof. Graham Furniss and **Dafe Diejomaoh**. All trustees, being eligible and having signified their willingness to serve again, are prepared to be re-elected**

DB recommended JL, GF and DD are re-elected en-bloc. Edith Ngozi David proposed and Tony Williams seconded approval of this, duly agreed by a show of all hands by members present.

Item 8

None raised.

Item 9

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 3:45pm and invited Nigeria Representative Engr. Greg Ojeh to present an overview of the Trust, followed by a presentation on Education in Nigeria by Professor Kabiru Isyaku and a talk by the AGM's honoured guest, HE Ambassador Amin Dalhatu, High Commissioner, Nigeria High Commission.

HE Ambassador Amin Dalhatu, High Commissioner, Nigeria
High Commission:

"Good afternoon distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I am so delighted to be here this afternoon and thrilled by what I have seen and heard about the efforts made by BNET.

I am passionate about education and very aware of the multifaceted problems back home, with the biggest blame going to our politicians, all of whom are beneficiaries of a good education; indeed, the electoral load means one must qualify to a good standard of education to assume office. Sadly, investing in education may become neglected once they enter office. They don't have the patience and patriotism to believe that what they do today will benefit the future, when it takes at least 15 years to educate a child.

Furthermore, education has suffered a great deal with the sector becoming turbulent during policy changes that are not beneficial and are, instead, self-serving.

I was first introduced to BNET through Professor Kabiru Isyaku, who told me about the efforts BNET is making towards the improvement of education in Nigeria. I also spoke to David Brandler, another Nigerian, with Mr. Oladimeji. They visited me in my office and arranged for Mr. Brandler and Professor Graham Furniss, another Nigerian, to visit me.

I wouldn't miss this BNET AGM for the world, and I will support these efforts in every way that I can and, also, say that British education has benefitted Nigeria and is still benefitting Nigeria and Nigerians. Many parents were educated here in the UK and they wish their children to avail themselves of the same opportunities although things like visa and school fees have affected this. Meanwhile, here in the UK, many British universities are experiencing a drop in university enrolments', so this is putting a bottom line on their risks. I have been engaging with universities in the UK to open campuses in Nigeria, to pursue the British education curriculum. If we pursue with this, it could be a win-win solution, and I hope it will work well.

I don't know where you find the money to do things, but I presume it is through the donation of individuals, and I recommend individuals to come forward to do this. On a personal level I wish to pledge a donation of £5k towards this noble effort and I will continue to support it and encourage other people to come forward.

I will assure you that I am always available and you can take my support and cooperation for granted.

Thank you very much."

David Brandler:

We are very aware of the contributions of all our members, including the donation of £30k from Mr. Ayo Salami, and we commit to ensuring that our work will continue to ensure the benefit of children in education in Nigeria. Thank you all, for your trust in what we do.

QUESTIONS

(i) Peju Abuchi question from Item 4(3):

Most of the schools we support are small schools, state schools and, frankly, a lot of the support that we give is a drop in the ocean to what many of the schools would ideally like. Generally, I don't think we have reached that stage – we are not big enough to give that support to enable a school to become financially independent.

(ii) Caroline Kalu: I have been a member of BNET for a long time and I have about 5000 books which I would like to donate to Nigeria, via BNET, if BNET can sponsor the shipping and declaring of these reading and textbooks for primary and secondary schools.

David Brandler: We have done this before and, if the books are part of the curriculum in Nigeria, we may pursue whether this is viable, thank you very much.

(iii) “Congratulations to BNET, it is not easy to volunteer your service to help your brothers and sisters in Africa. The High Commissioner has made a point, and he was sure that most of us benefitted from a good education, one that was planted by the British with good syllabuses and education - until things started to fall apart. I don't want to make any further point but to thank you for what you are doing, voluntarily.”

David Brandler: “Thank you very much, but I would like to emphasise that everyone here, especially amongst all the Trustees, has a very close relationship and affection for Nigeria”

Representative Engr. Greg Ojeh overview:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W95XIZzkrNNgjM5IWAETlmLc1aRysl7X/view?usp=sharing>

Professor Kabiru Isyaku presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mr_gbeLRY14c53Gqr8rX0BIhBAkFKhTD/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19thGC2ZrhfJo7TvBZi-CM1YRYDjFeHSM/view?usp=sharing>