

**MINUTES OF THE 8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of THE BRITAIN-NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL TRUST
HELD on THURSDAY 21st JULY 2016 at 3.00pm at
THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE, PARK PLACE, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON SW1A**

Trustees Present:	D.K.O. Brandler, Esq.	(Chairman)	[In the Chair]
	Dr. M. Anderson		
	Professor L.J. Bown, OBE		
	G.M. Clark, Esq.	(Secretary)	
	T. Cooke, Esq.		
	Miss Elizabeth Oritsejolomi Dudley	(Events Co-ordinator)	
	D. Fatunla, Esq.		
	Professor G.L. Furniss, BA PhD FBA OBE	(Vice Chairman)	
	J.R. Lee, Esq.	(Treasurer)	
	A. Oladimeji, Esq.		
	K.M. Rafferty, Esq.	(Membership Secretary)	
	D.R. Reeves, Esq., MBE	(Vice Patron)	
	Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR CFR	(Vice Patron)	

Members Present:	Mrs C. Afolabi
	Mr. E. Akanni
	Ms U. Arinzeh
	Lady (Mrs) J. Atako-Gregory
	Mrs A. Davidson
	Miss Jean Degenhardt
	Mr. & Mrs. D.H. Doble
	Mr. A. Edozie
	Mr. Dele Fatayi-Williams
	Dr. M. Gould
	Mr. E.F. Hill
	Mrs Jane Hughes
	Professor Kabiru Isyaku, OON, mni
	Mr A. Kalu
	Mrs J.M. Kirk
	Mr S. Lajuwomi
	Mr. P.G. Large
	Mr A. Lord
	Dr (Mrs) a. Lukic
	Dr & Mrs E Mama
	Mrs. Rita Odumosu
	Mrs G. Olowu
	Miss A. Olufemi
	Mrs H. Osadebay
	Mr C. Sanwo
	Mr. A. Shillingford
	Mr. A.R.P. Williams

Item 1

Welcome.

The proceedings began by observing formalities and protocol with Mr Adebayo Oladimeji introducing those presiding on the top table. Mr David Brandler, Chairman and in the Chair, then warmly welcomed those present to the eighth Annual General Meeting of The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust and declared the Meeting **open** at 3.20pm precisely. He began by introducing the Trust's members from Nigeria namely Engineer Greg Ojieh, Resident Representative, Mr Dele Fatayi-Williams, Project Co-ordinator and Professor Kabiru Isyaku, OON, mni who is a senior member of the Faculty of Education at Bayero University and thanked them for attending.

The Chairman explained the Patron Sir Mervyn Brown, KCMG OBE was not able to attend and warmly greeted Vice Patrons Mr Derek Reeves, MBE and Dr Dalhatu Tafida, OFR CFR and introduced Mrs Beatrice Danladi representing the Acting Nigeria High Commissioner Mr Adah Simon Ogah.

On behalf of all those present the Chairman welcomed the guest of honour the honourable Minister of the Environment Mrs Amina J. Mohammed, OFR.

Item 2 Apologies for Absence.

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from Trustees General (Dr) YD Gowon, BA PhD and Mrs Karen Taylor and from 40 members of the Trust whose names had been recorded.

Item 3 To Receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Mr DKO Brandler presented his report, which is reproduced in full hereunder: -

"A detailed report on the activities of the Trust last year is given in the published Report and Accounts for 2015, and every member has been sent a copy of this. So let me start my Report by giving you a look ahead as to how we see things developing for us.

This year much of the focus of the Trustees has been to identify the areas of education in Nigeria we want to be involved with, what our role should be and how best to fund and then manage that role. As I stated in my report last year, we believe Teacher Training in Nigeria needs a massive boost and it is the sector we would most like to contribute to. Our challenge as a small, voluntary and non-professional organisation is how and where we can best make a genuine difference. Teacher training requires professional expertise and above all a co-ordinated approach on both the State and Federal levels.

Understanding this, we are determined our contribution should be properly targeted and well thought out. One of the great strengths of BNET is the wide experience we have as trustees and in our membership here in the UK as well as the on-the-ground knowledge and involvement of our team in Nigeria with Greg Ojieh our official resident representative assisted by Dele Fatayi-Williams in Lagos and Professor Kabiru Isyaku in Kano.

We are a voluntary organisation not Government funded and so we should not feel under pressure to fund or initiate projects simply to justify a budget or salaries. We want to be sure projects will meet our aims of improving the educational chances of as many young Nigerians as possible. Quality not quantity is what we should aim for.

I also made clear in my report last year that the future of our Trust depends on developing proper fund raising. We cannot rely solely on the generous personal subscriptions from members to fund the work we want to do. In recent years we have been able to call on the two large donations we received but these were mainly for specific projects which are now complete. We need to co-ordinate our activities so that once we identify prospective projects we believe the Trust should promote we can develop a positive strategy for seeking donations to help realise the projects.

These are the challenges we are grappling with but I am confident we will succeed in meeting and overcoming them. One of the steps we have taken has been to upgrade our website, which I hope you will all make use of. Apart from listing the work we do and adding updates with photos from the different projects in Nigeria, we are now able to accept membership subscriptions and donations online as well as processing new membership applications. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Sussex our Communications Co-ordinator for her work updating and downloading items to our website as well as handling our Facebook page and Twitter account. I suspect and hope that this work will only increase as we make more use of social media to project and publicise the Trust and its activities.

Greg will update you on the projects we are currently supporting, I want to draw your attention to just one.

In October last year we had the successful launch of the 35 E-reader devices donated by the Trust to the Hope for the Village Child Foundation in Kaduna State. Accompanied by our Vice Patron Dr Tafida and our Project Co-ordinator Dele Fatayi-Williams I was present at the launch. This was a trial project in association with an American educational charity, Worldreader, who supplied the titles on the tablets. I believe the supply of e-Readers to rural or poorer city schools is potentially an area BNET can make a useful if limited contribution. It will be increasingly necessary for children at secondary school to be comfortable working on computers and E-readers can give them access to a range of reading and text books they might otherwise never see. However, it is vital the schools have sufficient input into and control over the titles loaded to the devices and do not rely on the suppliers to dictate which books they will offer.

Looking forward, we are discussing with a UK NGO specialising in teacher training in the north to assist by supplying visual aids and specialist school books. We are also discussing with the British Council about assisting in a schools partnership scheme that links UK and Nigerian schools. I hope by this time next year I can report on the successful start of these two projects. We are also pressing for the implementation of an external examiners programme initiated and partly funded by the Association of Commonwealth Universities whereby we will sponsor two visiting academics to attend Abu Zaria and Ado Bayero Kano Universities' departments of education to interact with members of those faculties as well as assess the end of year examination papers submitted by their students.

As usual I would like to end my report by thanking all the Trust Officers, the Trustees as well as Karen Sussex and Frances Tarr our Administrator for the hard work and dedication they have all shown. Let me acknowledge the contributions of Greg Ojeh, Dele Fatayi-Williams and Professor Kabiru Isyaku all of who have made the effort to travel from Nigeria to be present today. And as always to say a special thank you to our Secretary Gary Clark who really runs the Trust single handedly and that whose determination to the progress of the Trust is an inspiration to us all. There is no area of our activities Gary does not throw into wholeheartedly and if I do not highlight that more it is because it is because I and all the Trustees are worried Gary will suddenly realise how much time he puts into the Trust and decide enough is enough!!

Finally, I want to pay a special tribute to John Rivett who since 2009 has researched, edited and compiled our quarterly Nigeria Digest that provides such an informative and useful overview of current affairs in Nigeria with particular reference to educational matters. Many members have said how much they value the Digest as well as appreciate the balanced commentary he provides. As reported in last January's issue John has not been well and he has decided that the next issue will be his last. His knowledge and understanding of all matters Nigerian will be difficult to replace. We are of course taking steps to find a replacement willing and able to compile our Digest and suggestions or recommendations from our members would be welcomed. On behalf of us all I thank John for his commitment to the production of the Digest and wish him well.

I thank you for your attention and will be happy to take any questions."

In the absence of any questions or comment **Professor Lalage Bown, OBE** proposed and **Lady Janet Atako-Gregory** seconded the Chairman's Report be **Noted** and this was agreed by all members present.

Item 4

To Receive the Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2015.

The Treasurer, Mr JR Lee, presented his report on the Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2014. He explained it was still necessary to separate the financial resources

into Restricted and Unrestricted funds, those restricted having been anonymously donated for the specific benefit of Kings College, Lagos and Edo College, Benin.

Income for the year was solely Unrestricted and totalled £16,569 of which membership subscriptions, Gift Aid refunds and donations had generated £9,089 (2014 - £9,166). Investment income and bank interest had reduced significantly to £4,896 (2013 - £8,398).

Restricted resources expended £150,426 solely for the benefit of Kings College while a provision of £149,758 had been made to fund Scholarship and Maintenance schemes at both Colleges. Management and support expenses reflect a credit of £668 due to exchange rate gains.

Unrestricted resources expended £21,536 in support of the Trust's charitable activities (2014 - £46,648) but after accounting for a release of a £30,000 provision the net figure became a credit of £8,464. Governance costs for the period were £6,603 (2014 - £4,385) while total support costs amounted to £18,994 (2014 - £14,877) but were reduced to £3,889 by exchange rate gains of £15,105.

After taking into account a Net unrealised gain of £904 on investments (2014 - gain of £6,120) the combined Fund balance closed at £346,364 (2014 - £481,332).

Before closing the Treasurer explained that the full set of accounts were available for viewing on the BNET website.

There being no further questions **Mr Kevin Rafferty** proposed and **Mr Dele Fatayi-Williams** seconded the report of the Treasurer and Statement of Financial Activities for 2015 be **Approved**. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

Item 5 Appointment of Independent Examiners.

The Treasurer confirmed that Messrs Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP had signified their willingness to continue as Independent Examiners of the Trust and proposed they be **re-appointed** for the ensuing year. **Miss Elizabeth Oritsejolomi Dudley** seconded the motion and members present agreed unanimously.

Item 6 Election of Trustees.

Under Clause 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 Meeting were Professor Lalage Bown, OBE, Mr Tim Cooke, Professor Graham Furniss, BA PhD FBA OBE and Mrs Karen Taylor, who, all being eligible and having signified their willingness to serve again, were prepared to be re-elected.

The Chair recommended that all four be **re-elected en bloc**. On his proposal and seconded by **Professor Kabiru Isyaku, OON, mni** was unanimously agreed. **Lady Janet Atacko-Gregory** then proposed and **Mr Kevin Rafferty** seconded that the four named members of the Board be **re-appointed** Trustees and the motion was carried by a show of hands.

Item 7 To Consider Any Other Business.

The Secretary reported there were no items of other business.

Item 8 Closure.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3:45pm and thanked members for their attendance and participation.

G.M. Clark
Secretary

D.K.O. Brandler
Chairman