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FACT SHEET—THE UBE ACT

For Community Coalitions, COMPASS Staff and Policy Champions.

BE NO. 3

WHAT DOES THE UBE REQUIRE?

The current UBE policy underscores the need for free compulsory basic education. It makes a funding commitment as one of the key drivers of actualizing the policy agenda. The UBE policy requires that:

A child completes a 9 year basic education including 6 years of primary and 3 years of JSS.

The policy on UBE provides an opportunity for greater allocation of financial resources to the basic education sector.

Compulsory Free UBE is made mandatory for a child of school age (6 – 11).

A child is not expected to pay a school fee or pay for school services such as books, instructional materials, classrooms, furniture and lunch.

The purpose of making the education free is to afford all children (physically challenged as well as other disadvantaged groups such as orphans, nomadic migrants, and the poor the opportunity to basic education.

Clear guidelines on sub-sector allocations exist (ECCE, Primary and JSS) and also the need to pay attention to infrastructure development, instructional materials and teachers' professional development.

The policy has made UBE compulsory and also empowers the appropriate court authority to penalize the parent or guardian who refuses to send their child to school, and ensure that he/she completes a 9 year basic education.

It equally admits offence for collecting fees for services outlined as free, and recommends the appropriate penalty.

The UBE encompasses ECCE, the nine years of primary schooling, adult literacy and non-formal education, skills acquisition programmes and education of special groups such as nomads and migrants, girl child and women, almajiri (students from informal Islamic schools who are sent out to beg) and disabled groups. This is an expanded scope from the past. 5% of the total amount earmarked for the UBE intervention has been set aside for the ECCE which

The Jigawa State government is the first state in the country to sign the UBE Bill into Law. Alhaji Babangida Hussaini, the executive Chairman of Jigawa State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB,) speaks on the success of Jigawa State government in implementing the UBE scheme.



Are SUBEB activities the same with the dissolved State Primary Education Board (SPEB)?

"They can never be the same. Number one, the focus is different, the direction is different, the personnel is (sic) equally different, but the major objective is that we have various areas of coverage, making sure that our children get quality education at the basic level.

Now, as chairman of UBE, what are the challenges before you?

"The expectation from the public and the people we are serving is generally high. Our main problem is meeting those expectations. It was observed that in the last two or so years, Jigawa state did not participate in the National Common Entrance Examination."