



# African Council for Communication Education

## (ACCE) Nigeria Chapter

**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ACCE HELD AT THE LAGOS BUSINESS SCHOOL, PAN-ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY, LEKKI CAMPUS, LAGOS FROM OCTOBER 23 TO 26, 2018**

### **Preamble**

The African Council for Communication Education (ACCE, Nigeria Chapter), the biggest association and forum for media professionals, educators in journalism and cultural studies, and associated disciplines in Africa, with branches in many countries on the African Continent and headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, gathered from 23 to 26 October, 2018, at the Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University, Lekki Campus, Lagos, to deliberate and receive scholarly presentations on the theme: *Communication, Migration and Inclusiveness*.

The Conference was well attended with over 400 participants from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The Plenary was addressed by the Vice Chancellor of Pan-Atlantic University, Professor Juan Elegido; the Lead Speaker and professor of political journalism, University of Sussex, Prof. Ivor Gaber; a leading communication scholar from the United States and Sierra Leone, Professor Cecil Blake; the first female professor of communication in Nigeria, Professor Chinyere Stella Okunna; the Dean, School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University, Dr. Ikechukwu Obiaya; as well as the National President of ACCE, Nigeria Chapter and Visiting Professor of the University of Bedfordshire, Luton, England, Dr. Nnamdi Ekeanyanwu.

### **At the end of the Conference, the Council**

1. Commended the School of Media and Communication and the entire Pan-Atlantic University for successfully hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference and AGM of the Council.
2. Appreciated Pan-Atlantic University for ensuring that participants enjoyed a conducive environment, which enabled them to function at their best during the conference.
3. Commended partners of the Lagos Business School and Pan-Atlantic University in ensuring the successful hosting of the Conference.

### **The Council further resolved as follows:**

1. There is insufficient awareness on the part of Nigerian youths on the implications and disastrous consequences of illegal migration. Therefore, the Nigerian Government through the media and relevant agencies should intensify the education of the vulnerable on the danger of illegal migration.

2. The quest for migration is borne out of poor living conditions in the country, as a result of poverty, unemployment and limited economic opportunities for majority of the population especially the youths. Thus, the Nigerian Government should improve the living conditions in the country to check the tide of migration rush, which human traffickers now capitalise upon to deceive the vulnerable.
3. The media should do more than reporting the issues of migration and inclusiveness as straight news. This can be achieved by consistently writing editorials, news features, in-depth articles, commentaries, interpretative articles and opinion articles. The media could also incorporate phone-in programmes, documentaries and interviews to bring the issues to the door steps of Nigerians thereby keeping them adequately informed about the dangers of illegal migration and the opportunities inherent in inclusive societies.
4. Nigeria is characterised by extreme divisions along the lines of religion, ethnicity, politics and culture. These extremities promote hatred, nepotism, racism and xenophobia. Consequently, internal migration is hampered and inclusive societies become difficult to achieve within the Nigerian body polity. To restore its past glory as a nation and people, the Conference called for the rise of true nationalists to “take our country back” by fighting religious extremism, xenophobia, nepotism and racial discrimination.
5. The media should promote Nigeria as a country blessed with abundant opportunities, a country where its citizens can stay and do well in their endeavours and also contribute to its growth and development, rather than migrate to other countries.
6. Mass media operators and advertisers should highlight the difference between scammers and trusted travel agencies, as well as foreign education consultants. Therefore, relevant governmental agencies should issue appropriate operating licences to credible travel agencies and by so doing flush out fraudsters in the system. The relevant governmental agencies should also ensure effective monitoring and regulation of the industry to ensure migration advertisements/commercials are not deceptive.
7. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should embark on orientation campaigns to educate the potential victims on the dangers of illegal migration. This will minimise their vulnerability and help drive out human traffickers in the system out of business.

### **SIGNED**

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