



National Concord, Thursday, Nov. 3, 1988
 *Above, Dr. C. Ezeomah (left) presents the book and tape recording to the minister.

FG plans national status for Nomadic education

By
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THE Federal Government is to establish a National Commission on Nomadic Education in the country.

Education Minister, Professor Jubril Aminu disclosed this in Lagos on Tuesday at the inauguration of the National Advisory Commission on Nomadic Education.

Professor Aminu said blueprint for the programme including the proposal for the establishment of the commission had been approved by the National Council on Education and the National Council of Ministers.

Commitment

The minister stated that the law on the establishment of the commission was now being drafted by the Federal Ministry of Justice.

He said the Federal Government has re-affirmed its commitment toward the education of the nomad, adding that the programme was in pursuance of the campaign for the eradication of illiteracy.

According to him, the programme was intended to enable the nomadic population of the country to improve upon their productivity.

Pace

To maintain the pace at which the Nomadic educational programme was being pursued, the minister said. President Ibrahim Babangida personally approved the setting up of a 32-member Advisory Committee which would function until the national commission is set up.

He noted that Nomadic education was a new, unusual, multidimensional and highly pervasive social programme, beyond the ordinary considerations of an educational sub-sector.

Professor Aminu further noted that "this programme will foster social justice which is the cardinal goal of the present administration, by stimulating the Nomad to understand and demand for his rights to rid himself of his

present miserable existence.

The Nomadic scheme has since been launched in Kaduna, Kano, Plateau, Bauchi, Niger, Kwara, Anambra, Oyo, Borno, Benue, Gongola, Sokoto and Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

Meanwhile, book on "Statistical survey of Nomads in ten Northern states" was presented by head of Nomadic education, University of Jos, Professor C. Ezeomah.

Nomad's population stands at 6.4 million

From
 Nandom Dashe,
 Lagos

AN expert on Nomadic Education from the University of Jos, Professor Chima Ezeomah, said in Lagos on Tuesday that the population of nomads in the country was estimated at 6.4 million.

Professor Ezeomah, who gave the estimate while presenting a book titled: "Statistical Survey of Nomads" prepared by the Nomadic Education Unit of the University of Jos, said the programme would face the problem of huge population.

He observed that the awareness of the existence of nomads had attracted the attention of the nation, adding that it was desirable for government to have mobile teachers, television, radio and cassette programmes for the nomads.

Professor Ezeomah said there was the need to carry out a mapping exercise in all the schools.

Receiving the report, the Minister of Education, Professor Jibril Aminu, said the ministry had been following the contributions of the University of Jos, in offering solutions to problems and issues confronting the country in the area of nomadic education.

Professor Aminu said it was in view of their past contributions that the university was asked to obtain data on the number of adult nomads and children in "ruga" clusters in every state as well as the number of 'ruga' clusters in an encampment area.

Other data the nomadic unit obtained were the concentration areas of the nomads in a state, the zones where nomads spend the rainy and dry seasons and the length of stay in the location.

Data also provided are for educational provisions made for the nomads as at now, the number of literate nomads serving as teachers who can be utilized, the staff and facility needs of existing schools that accommodate the interests of the nomads and the number and level of learning of Koranic Mallams who migrate with nomadic families and teach the children of the nomads.

Professor Aminu hoped that the information contained in the book would go a long way in helping planners to know what facilities were needed and the process of planning and implementation of nomadic education.

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