



AFRICA FORUM OF TEACHING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Forum Africain des Autorités de Contrôle de l'Enseignement

www.africateachingauthorities.org

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COMMUNIQUE

**THE 6TH TEACHING AND LEARNING IN AFRICA CONFERENCE HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA (UNISA) PRETORIA, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
23 – 24 MAY, 2017**

THEME

“PRODUCING A NEW SOCIETY THROUGH EDUCATION”

1. PREAMBLE

AFTRA is a coalition of statutory organisations regulating teaching in African countries, and has headquarters in South Africa and Nigeria. Membership includes national teaching regulatory agencies; teaching service commissions; education service commissions; universities; faculties, institutes and colleges of education; teachers unions; international development partners; and civil society organisations. AFTRA is also the Africa Regional Branch of the International (World) Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities, IFTRA (www.iftra.org), and member of the African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the UN Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030.

Some objectives of **AFTRA** are to promote the establishment of the Teaching Regulatory Authorities for the promotion and enhancement of the status of the Teaching profession throughout Africa, set international standards for the profession and facilitate co-operation among member nations for the benefit of the education systems of the various countries.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

The conference started with the rendition of both the South African National Anthem and the African Union Anthem. The following personalities were recognized: Minister of State for Education, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Anthony Anwuka; Minister of Basic Education, Republic of South Africa represented by the Chief Director Teacher Development, Mr P. Rabotapi; Chairperson of the South African Council for Educators (SACE), Ms Veronica Hofmeester; Acting Chief Executive Officer of SACE, Ms Ella Mokgalane and the President of AFTRA, Mr. Rej Brijraj. The different countries represented at the conference were also acknowledged and these included Zambia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Kenya and South Africa. The Democratic Republic of Congo also sent a solidarity message to the conference.

The Chairperson of SACE presented the welcoming address and emphasized the role that AFTRA should play in upholding the African Agenda Strategy 2063. She recommitted the support which her council will always provide to the growth of AFTRA. The President of AFTRA, Mr. Rej Brijraj welcomed the delegates and emphasized the objectives of AFTRA and the need for professionalizing teaching throughout the continent. He further emphasized the importance of teachers in transforming society and that more needs to be done to cater for their needs and development.

The maiden AFTRA Fellowship Award was the highlight of the opening ceremony of the conference and the following persons were honoured with the Award for their contributions to the development of the teaching profession in Africa and beyond:

- i. Mr. Christopher K. Yakulanda, Chair of the Teaching Council of Zambia
- ii. Mrs Phuti Ragopala, a South African teacher
- iii. Professor Anthony Anwuka, Minister of State for Education, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- iv. Mr. Charles Yaw Aheto-Tsegah, former Executive Secretary National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Ghana
- v. Dr. John Muyingo, Deputy Minister of Education, Republic of Uganda
- vi. Mr. Thabang Kholumo, Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Kingdom of Lesotho
- vii. Dr Edem Adubra, Head of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France
- viii. Mr. Rej Brijraj, President of AFTRA
- ix. Professor Addison Wokocha, Former Secretary General of AFTRA and former Registrar/Chief Executive of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria
- x. Professor Steve Nweokocha, AFTRA Executive Director (Academic)
- xi. Mr. Themba Ndhlovu, AFTRA Executive Director (Administration and Finance)
- xii. Mr. Lucas Maphila, former Chair of SACE
- xiii. Dr. Mauvia Gallie, former Chief Operations Officer of SACE
- xiv. Dr. Lydia Nzomo, Chair of Teachers Service Commission, Kenya
- xv. Mr. Gabriel Lengoiboni, former Chief Executive of Teachers Service Commission, Kenya
- xvi. Ms. Nancy Njeri Macharia, Chief Executive Officer Teachers Service Commission, Kenya

A video welcome message was played, sent from the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA). The video message was delivered by Dr. Michael Salvatori, Registrar and Chief Executive of the Ontario College of Teachers, Canada. The message focused on the mission to professionalize teaching and that more strategies need to be put in place. Support for AFTRA was echoed. Goodwill messages were also presented by the African Union, Education International and UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, and the Minister of State for Education, Republic of Nigeria. Nigeria was announced

3. KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The tone for the Conference was set by six distinguished speakers whose presentations in the first plenary session enriched the Conference. The speakers and were as follows:

- Dr. Beatrice Khamati Njenga , Head of the Education Division, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Dr. Edem Adubra, Chief of Section for Teacher Development & Head of the Secretariat of the International Task Force on Teachers, UNESCO Paris, France
- Dr Yumiko Yokozeki, Director, UNESCO – International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Dr. James Keevy, Chief Executive, JET Education Services, South Africa
- Dr. Muavia Gallie, Former Chief Operations Officer, South African Council for Educators & School and District Turnaround Strategist, South Africa
- Ms. Assibi Napoe, Chief Coordinator, Education International, Africa Regional office, Accra, Ghana

4. SYNDICATE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

AFTRA received thirty three (33) papers on topics related to the conference theme, which it published.

The papers were of very high quality and expertly presented.

5. ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE PRESENTATIONS

- i. There is need for AFTRA to have someone as focal persons in all African Union Regional Economic Blocs and addressing the linguistic systems.
- ii. There is need for AFTRA to critically reflect the reality of gender aspiration for Africa;
- iii. There is need to re-focus inclusive education for learners and teachers of all marginalized categories;
- iv. There is need to focus on teacher attraction and teacher retention in Africa, realizing the value they bring to society;
- v. There is need to strengthen AFTRA agenda to harmonize the SDGs, CESA and Agenda 2063 to create an African perspective to unify Africa;
- vi. There is need for harmonization of curriculum to include aspects of cultural heritage of Africa (Pan Africanism), those that enhance values of peace, tolerance and matters of disability;
- vii. The need to provide framework for transformation of schools to increase performance and create schools of excellence for the quality of education;
- viii. The need to create professional pathway by providing support, training and progressive in-service teacher education;
- ix. The need to promote leadership training and education as prerequisites for school principals and other educational administrators in order to enhance the professionalization of teaching;
- x. AFTRA should define the professional teacher in an African context; and
- xi. AFTRA should set up a continental accreditation body for recognition of teachers within the continent and enhance their mobility.

6. DECLARATIONS

- i. AFTRA shall include the whole of the African nations in its strategies and programmes, for instance, Francophone, Portuguese and Arabic speaking countries in all AFTRA activities and to have focal persons for all these languages;
- ii. AFTRA shall strengthen its vision with the African Union's CESA and Agenda 2063 and promote close working relations with African and other global bodies;
- iii. AFTRA shall be committed to gender equality in education and inclusive education and shall pursue these through regulations, research and capacity building interventions.
- iv. AFTRA shall support African educational systems to set up rigorous recruitment, retention and promotion systems for teachers.
- v. AFTRA shall lobby governments to invest in teachers to curb loss of high quality teachers to the private sector;
- vi. Conference reaffirmed the critical role of teachers in infusing human values to teaching and the promotion of complete citizens for the continent through all learning programs;
- vii. AFTRA shall re-conceptualize professionalism with clear indicators of what constitute a professional teacher in the African context;

- viii. AFTRA shall promote e-learning and ensure that teaching and learning through this medium is of high quality and conforms with professional standards.
- ix. AFTRA shall collaborate with the various African countries to develop and implement sound professional standards for teachers and school leaders.
- x. AFTRA shall encourage and support teaching regulatory bodies in the provision of quality and accessible schools;
- xi. AFTRA shall facilitate member states' use of the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers as a reference for professional development of teachers.
- xii. AFTRA shall give priority attention to all learners with special educational needs
- xiii. ARTRA shall present the Declarations to the Committee of ten (10) AU heads of states.



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