

A SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE TEAM LEAD/MANAGING PARTNER BENUE STATE e-LEARNING/VIRTUAL EDUCATION ICT RESOURCE CENTRE (BESEVIC) HONOURABLE GBANDE HEMBAOR TERWASE ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE BENUE STATE e-LEARNING/VIRTUAL EDUCATION ICT RESOURCE CENTRE (BESEVIC) ON TUESDAY 1ST MARCH, 2022 AT BESEVIC OFFICE COMPLEX, MAKURDI.

Protocol

Distinguished guests, permit me to commence this presentation with a briefing on the place of ICT in Education. Information and communication technology (ICT) with its attendant benefits of virtual and e-learning environment components are an emergent era of the present decade and its vital role for the advancement of our global education system. As the popularity of ICT is enabled, applications are increasing, e-learning and virtual education has been established as a revolution not only in developed countries but also in developing nations. E-learning and virtual education is a basic tool and approach towards achieving global unlimited electronic access to education resources.

The onset of the covid19 pandemic has thrown up a challenge to accessing education for many persons across the world and especially in Benue State, this has led to the need to provide viable alternatives to accessing education and education resources different from the usual brick and mortar model. The Benue State e-Learning/Virtual Education ICT Resource Centre is fashioned with the intention to provide a platform for launching a revolution in the educational sector in the state.

Your Excellency sir, distinguished guests, following the need to close these gaps in the education sector of the state, Gamint Corporate Ltd, an indigenous certified hardware and software ICT firm received the mandate of the Benue State Government to develop and deploy ICT tools for the education sector in line with the National Policy on ICT in Education and the deliberate policy of the Benue State Government on ICT Education.

In line with this mandate, Your Excellency sir, BESEVIC aside other interventions, has secured National Broadcasting Commission's approval for dedicated BESEVICtv (School on air services) which is equally on satellite (NIGCOMSAT) where users on all these platforms can access educational contents without subscribing for data/bandwidth.

The mandate of BESEVIC through its e-learning/virtual education services and ICT Support is to ensure the provision of Software as a Service (SAAS), Platform as a Service (PAAS) and Infrastructure as a Service (IAAS) for all Schools and the education sector in the State. The Centre targets massive achievements in the areas of:

- i. Development of human capacity in ICT for the state IT industry
- ii. Improvement in the Computer literacy level of Students and Teachers in the state through the Centre's mandatory training.
- iii. Effective deployment of ICT in education for efficient classroom delivery that will nurture innovation and entrepreneurship development in the state.
- iv. Exposing the learner in early life to the necessary digital literacy, ICT skills training and e-learning which is capable of developing skills and competencies that will assist them in their chosen careers.
- v. Creation of an enabling environment that will foster the entrenchment of technological learning styles and needs of futuristic students in the globally competitive world of the knowledge economy.
- vi. Transform Benue State into a digital economy and infrastructure hub through knowledge economy.

BESEVIC activities includes:

1. Support schools with ICT Soft and Hardware infrastructure to be digital compliant.
2. Mandatory training of Teachers/Lecturers on Digital Literacy Skills and use of Classroom Digital Technologies.
3. Provide Teachers/Lecturers with platform to develop Digital Content for their students in various subjects.
4. Support schools' ICT services.
5. Provide e-Books and Digital Content for State Education Sector.
6. Implement BESEVIC e-Learning Radio Station.
7. Implement BESEVIC e-Learning TV (DTH).
8. Already secured partnership with NIGCOMSAT on additional broadband/internet access for education institutions at 50% discount.
9. Train content editing and script writing personnel.
10. Provision of Laptops and e-learning devices to teachers, lecturers, students etc at subsidized rates among other IT services that support Education.

We appreciate the managements of Benue State University, Makurdi and College of Education, Katsina-Ala for their approval and timely release of Content Development Experts for this project. We also call on other education institutions in the state to do same.

Thank you and God bless you all.