

March 28, 2025

Q1 2025 QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE KWARA STATE EDUCATION TRUST FUND

1. Introduction

I am pleased to present the Q1 2025 Quarterly Report of the Kwara State Education Trust Fund, highlighting our progress and key initiatives from January to March 2025. This report reflects our unwavering commitment to advancing quality education in Kwara State through sustainable investments in school infrastructure, student support programs, technology integration, and strategic partnerships. As we continue to drive impactful reforms, we remain dedicated to fostering an inclusive and innovative learning environment that empowers students and strengthens the education sector in Kwara.

2. The First Quarterly Board Meeting

The first quarterly board meeting was held on January 18, 2025, bringing together board members to review ongoing initiatives, assess progress, and align on strategic priorities for the year. Discussions centered on project implementation, fundraising efforts, and upcoming education-focused interventions, reinforcing the Fund's commitment to enhancing the quality of education in Kwara State.

3. Opening of Bank Accounts

In Q1 2025, the Fund successfully opened official accounts with First Bank of Nigeria, including Naira, USD, Pounds, and Euro accounts. This milestone strengthens our financial management framework, enhancing transparency and efficiency in fund administration. Additionally, we expanded our banking portfolio by opening a USD account with Zenith Bank, complementing our existing Naira account. These strategic steps ensure seamless handling of donations and financial transactions, supporting the effective implementation of our educational initiatives across Kwara State.

4. Recognition & Rewards for Presidential School Debate Winners

KwaraETF celebrated the four winning pupils of the Presidential School Debate Championship with well-deserved rewards, recognizing their outstanding academic achievement. Their teachers were also recognized and rewarded for their dedication and contributions to the success of the pupils. To further support the winning schools, KwaraETF addressed key infrastructure and facility needs identified in consultation with the schools. This initiative reinforces our commitment to incentivizing excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities, encouraging greater participation and achievement in future competitions.

5. Stakeholder Engagements by the Chairman & Executive Secretary

The Chairman and Executive Secretary led high-level engagements with key stakeholders to advance the Trust Fund's mission. Discussions were held with: Government officials (for policy alignment and funding support), Private sector partners (to explore CSR collaborations, particularly in STEM education and infrastructure), Alumni groups and community leaders (to encourage direct investments in school development projects). These engagements reinforced KwaraETF's leadership role in education development and opened doors for potential partnerships.

6. Extraordinary Board Meeting and Rescheduling of the Awards and Fundraising Gala

An extraordinary board meeting was convened on March 13, 2025, primarily to deliberate on the rescheduling of the Awards and Fundraising Gala initially set for April 30, 2025. While the meeting also addressed other critical matters, including funding allocations and fast-tracking key initiatives, the need to finalize a new date for the gala took center stage. Given the proximity of the initial date and our anticipation of the Governor's confirmation of availability, the Board deemed it necessary to postpone the event. A revised date is being considered to ensure adequate planning, maximize stakeholder participation, and enhance the event's overall impact.

7. Appointment of Auditors and Financial Consultants.

In Q1 2025, the Kwara State Education Trust Fund appointed TGS Taju Audu & Co. as the official auditors to ensure transparency and compliance in financial reporting. Additionally, Baltimore Tax and Financial (BTF) Consults was engaged as financial consultants to provide expert guidance on resource mobilization. These strategic appointments reinforce our commitment to accountability and the effective utilization of resources in advancing quality education across Kwara State.

8. Office Setup and Infrastructure Development

The Fund has commenced the setup of its office to enhance operational efficiency and service delivery. Essential furniture, including chairs, tables, and workstations, has been procured and installed, creating a conducive workspace for staff. Additional office infrastructure and equipment are being put in place to ensure a fully functional environment that supports the Fund's mission and day-to-day activities.

9. Common Entrance Exam Sponsorship Initiative

In collaboration with KwaraLEARN, the Fund launched a sponsorship program to cover the common entrance examination fees for 180 top-performing pupils across the state. Prior to the sponsorship, mock exams were conducted for 640 students (top 40 per LGA across 16 LGAs), ensuring that the most deserving candidates benefited from this initiative. By eliminating financial barriers that prevent brilliant pupils from advancing to secondary school, the program provides a pathway for continued academic success.

10. **Partnership & Fundraising Efforts**

Proposals have been submitted to several organizations, including First Bank of Nigeria, Globacom Limited, Indian High Commision, PiggyVest, Sterling Bank and other corporate entities, seeking collaboration to implement our five-year development plan. Fundraising efforts remain a priority for planned school renovations, digital learning initiatives, and teacher training programs.

Donations Received 11.

In this quarter, the Kwara State Education Trust Fund received a total of ₩666,432.50 in donations (exclusive of administrative and transaction fees) from generous individuals and organizations committed to improving education in Kwara State. These contributions, made through our online donation platform and direct transfers, are instrumental in funding key initiatives, including school renovations, student scholarships, and learning resource provisions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors for their unwavering support. As we continue our mission, we encourage more stakeholders to partner with us in shaping a brighter future for education in Kwara.

12. Next Steps

As we move into Q2 2025, the Kwara State Education Trust Fund will build on the momentum gained in the first quarter to further its impact in the education sector. Our priorities include:

- 1. Implementation of Sponsored Common Entrance Exams: Ensuring that the 180 sponsored pupils successfully sit for the common entrance examination, with proper coordination and support. Additionally, we will track their performance in the exams and explore further assistance to help them transition smoothly into secondary school.
- 2. **Resource Mobilization:** As part of our ongoing efforts to secure sustainable funding for educational development, the Fund will intensify its resource mobilization strategy in collaboration with Baltimore Tax and Financials (BTF) Consult. This partnership will focus on identifying and engaging potential donors, optimizing fundraising approaches, and ensuring efficient financial planning to support our key initiatives.

- 3. Strengthening Community and Alumni Participation: Expanding partnerships with alumni groups and community stakeholders to mobilize resources for school improvement projects.
- 4. Enhanced Fundraising and Corporate Engagement: Engaging more private sector stakeholders, development partners, and philanthropists to secure funding for long-term sustainability.

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2025 has set a strong foundation for the Kwara State Education Trust Fund's continued efforts to enhance the quality of education in Kwara State. Through strategic partnerships, targeted investments, and community-driven initiatives, we are steadily working towards a more inclusive, innovative, and well-resourced education system. As we progress through the year, we remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and impactful interventions that will leave a lasting legacy on the future of education in Kwara.

Yours Sincerely, Oluwadamilola Amolegbe (for the board) **Executive Secretary** Kwara State Education Trust Fund