

NATIONAL POLICY ON CULTURE

FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF TOURISM,



2008
ORIENTATION, NATIONAL CULTURE



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



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SECTION ONE

CULTURAL POLICY AND NATIONAL IDEALS



1.0 As the largest black nation in the world, Nigeria is guided by the national philosophy of a progressive and participatory democratic political system, which is characterized by economic self-reliance, egalitarianism, equity and social justice. Nigeria also envisions good governance as a basic requirement for peace, security and sustainable political, cultural and socio-economic development. Culture, as a central vehicle for national development, economic emancipation and empowerment, requires a dynamic and robust policy.

The following cultural policy is the result of input from the cultural sector as well as professional guidance both within and outside governmental agencies. The policy has been defined over many years and uniquely addresses the needs of the people of Nigeria.

The National Policy on Culture for Nigeria aims to provide guidelines and general directions through which the Federal Republic of Nigeria will seek to meet the current and future cultural needs of the country.

1.0.1 **VISION**

The vision of the National Policy on Culture is to strengthen understanding, create a national consciousness, advance the appreciation of arts and culture and enhance Nigeria's identity worldwide. The policy is also oriented toward popularizing communication and information technology in the context of community participation in development, economic empowerment and the promotion of national harmony.

1.0.2 **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the National Policy on Culture is to: enunciate a national cultural agenda that sets the framework for an environment that stimulates and harnesses the diversity and creative energies of our people; ensure public participation in arts and culture; protect and secure the patrimony of our combined heritage and focus on the needs, aspirations and goals of all Nigerians.

1.0.3 **GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

The goals of the National Policy on Culture are:

- i. to promote national consciousness and identity towards the attainment of national integration and democratic participation;
- ii. to stimulate creativity, develop cultural industries for the realization of sustainable tourism and economic empowerment;
- iii. to utilize arts and culture as vehicles for participation in national and global development initiatives;

- iv. to document, preserve and promote tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- v. to promote research that strengthens the link between nature, culture, science technology and education;
- vi. to strengthen governmental and nongovernmental cultural institutions at all levels for effective service delivery, capacity building and development;
- vii. to encourage public, private participation and partnership in cultural initiatives; and
- viii. to promote and develop cultural festivals, carnivals and related activities, and encourage the development of cultural calendars at all levels of government.

1.0.4 **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- i. Honouring preserving and documenting Nigeria's cultural heritage, ethnicity, ethnography and linguistics.
- ii. Ensuring access to artistic and cultural activities for all Nigerians and devoting special attention to the development of educational programmes for children and young people.
- iii. Encouraging the use of culture as an instrument for creating employment opportunities through cultural industries that promote sustainable grassroots development.
- iv. Developing collaborations, communication and partnerships between artists, cultural institutions, civic organizations, public agencies and private enterprises.
- v. Establishing long range plans that address the capital needs of cultural facilities, provide for the maintenance of national monuments and historic sites and guarantee stewardship for collections of art and significant historic documents held in trust by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- vi. Integrating the arts and culture into tourism, educational and economic development and national language policies.
- vii. Protecting and encouraging creative expression to freely flourish at all times.
- viii. Giving priority to programmes that reduces conflict, promotes better human relationships, encourages understanding of traditional customs and values, and guarantees equity and fair treatment for women, children and the otherwise challenged.
- ix. Ensuring excellence by seeking a dedicated source of funding for development of the arts, humanities and heritage preservation.
- x. Seeking international cultural exchange opportunities and cultural diplomacy as a vehicle for reaching across geographic and cultural borders, advancing understanding with other nations and enriching the lives of Nigerians.

SECTION TWO

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES



2.0 The Federal Republic of Nigeria will continue to seek the support and participation of multiple partners in the public and private sector in the implementation of its National Policy on Culture. A variety of methods will be employed to achieve the goals of the policy.

2.0.1 LANGUAGE AND LITERARY ARTS

In order to facilitate national integration and evolve a language of popular communication that will build bridges across the ethno-linguistic communities, the Government shall:

- i. carry out research and documentation of all Nigerian languages and their dialects to ascertain the exact number and situation of the languages;
- ii. promote Nigerian languages at various levels of the educational system in consonance with the Millennium Development Goals;
- iii. encourage the utilization of Pidgin English as a means of popular communication to enhance national integration;
- iv. support and promote Nigerian writers in the production and publication of books, newspapers and academic journals in Nigerian languages;
- v. encourage the use of Nigerian languages for Government/Official programmes;
- vi. encourage research works to identify and document endangered Nigerian languages through visual, literary and performing arts;
- vii. encourage the use of Nigerian languages in the print and electronic media;
- viii. encourage tertiary institutions and research centres to develop dictionaries, technical and scientific documents in Nigerian languages;
- ix. Encourage public and private sectors to provide increased resources (physical, human, material and financial) for Nigerian language education.

2.0.1 COMMUNAL LIFE

Communal life is the most viable and enduring unit for sustainable development. It is culture bound and a vehicle for self definition, actualization and dignity. Festivals and ceremonies are means of expression of community solidarity. Recognizing the important role communal life plays in the preservation of our cultural heritage, the Government shall:

- i. collaborate with public and private sector organizations to promote the nation's major festivals for national and international patronage;

- ii. support the efforts of local communities to identify, document and promote festivals and ceremonies in their areas;
- iii. initiate the compulsory study of the humanities through history, anthropology, archeology, comparative religion as well as indigenous knowledge systems in educational institutions;
- iv. promote arts and craft associations and cooperatives nationally and internationally.

2.0.3 **CULTURAL ENTERPRISES AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

The Nigerian cultural and creative industries, especially in the areas of the visual and performing arts, craft, fashion design, film making and video production have grown steadily. As a means to harness and package these products for increased economic impact, the Government shall:

- i. seek support of the private sector to undertake an assessment of Nigeria's craft industry and develop mechanisms to strengthen craftsmanship, productivity and provide enterprise opportunities;
- ii. promote the teaching of arts and crafts and performing arts at all levels of the educational system;
- iii. encourage the development of traditional architectural designs that promote Nigerian values and the aspirations of the people in a manner compatible with environmental ethics;
- iv. encourage the patronage of made-in-Nigeria fabrics/textiles and designs at local and international levels;
- v. establish strategic arts and craft markets at the federal, state and local government levels;
- vi. encourage the formation of craft guilds or cooperatives in both urban and rural areas;
- vii. enforce laws protecting copyrights, intellectual and cultural property rights;
- viii. establish micro-credits, loans and other funding schemes to empower private sector/community involvement and initiatives in craft development;
- ix. encourage the establishment of nature reserves for replenishing raw materials to sustain the craft industry.

2.0.4 **INDIGENOUS WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE**

Indigenous wisdom and knowledge is a source of cultural heritage that uplifts the social and economic status of Nigerians. In order to harness and preserve our traditions for future generations, the Government shall:

- i. partner with non-governmental agencies to ensure preservation and promotion of Nigeria's tangible and intangible cultural heritage through appropriate training, formal or informal and through traditional apprenticeships;
- ii. ensure appropriate documentation and public awareness of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- iii. encourage higher institutions and research centres to promote the publication of multi-media materials relating to Nigeria's tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- iv. encourage governmental agencies to promote scientific, technical and artistic studies of intangible cultural heritage resources;
- v. strengthen training in the preservation, management and transmission of our intangible cultural heritage resources;
- vi. Encourage the integration and application of traditional knowledge into modern educational systems.

2.0.5 **RELIGION, TRADITIONAL BELIEFS AND VALUE SYSTEMS**

To ensure that the values of peace, fairness, equity and justice are preserved, the government shall encourage the promotion of religious harmony through educational programs that stimulate greater tolerance of the nation's diverse religious communities. In order to accomplish this, the Government shall:

- i. facilitate the production and preservation of enlightenment programmes on religious harmony in the mass media;
- ii. encourage government agencies, NGOs and traditional institutions to develop cultural programmes that encourage cooperation and promote harmony among religious and ethnic groups;
- iii. promote the moral and ethical values necessary to build upon the traditions of family and maintain strong communities;
- iv. facilitate and support the research, documentation and dissemination of various traditional religious practices, beliefs and value systems that are part of the cultural wealth of Nigeria.

2.0.6 **TRADITIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS**

Traditional institutions play a vital role in Nigeria's political, economic and socio-cultural life. The institutions include family and clan units, village leadership, chiefdoms, age-grade systems, social and political organizations. The Government recognizes these institutions as custodians of culture and shall:

- i. through community participation and involvement of traditional leaders, document and preserve these traditional knowledge systems that provide lessons on how to live in contemporary societies,
- ii. support cultural programmes that encourage the continuity of oral traditions, history and effective engagement of traditional institutions in the context of overall national development.

2.0.7 **CULTURAL AND NATURAL SITES**

Museums, natural sites and monuments constitute the tangible and intangible aspects of our cultural heritage. Efforts must be made to restore, preserve, interpret and promote these resources. The Government shall:

- i. promote thorough enlightenment and legislation, discouragement of willful destruction of cultural properties;
- ii. identify funding opportunities to support the management, preservation, maintenance and development of Nigeria's monuments and sites;
- iii. designate National Heritage Sites and maintain a National Heritage List;
- iv. seek to include additional sites and monuments into the National and World Heritage lists;
- v. enlist the support of local communities in the preservation and management of museums, monuments and heritage sites;
- vi. strengthen the enforcement of laws that prevent illicit trafficking of antiquities and cultural treasures and take aggressive steps to repossess them.

2.0.8 **MINORITY GROUPS, HERITAGE AND IDENTITY**

The protection of customs, heritage and the interest of minority groups is critical to maintaining the diversity of Nigeria. As Nigeria continues to develop as a strong nation, cultural and environmental resources should be considered as an equal component of economic development in all parts to the country. Government believes that:

- i. ensuring the culture, history, identity and heritage of minority groups in Nigeria is tied to their individual economic well being;

- ii. supporting development of domestic tourism is a means of facilitating cultural interaction and understanding among the various groups;
- iii. strengthening and enforcing equity will ensure fairness as contained in the application of the principles of Federal Character.

2.0.9 **CULTURE AND THE VULNERABLE GROUPS (WOMEN, YOUTHS, CHILDREN, THE AGED AND THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED)**

Vulnerable groups such as young people, women and the aged form a significant proportion of the population of Nigeria. These groups are an important factor in the dissemination of culture. However, they remain disenfranchised and need to be accommodated. Government shall encourage them to contribute to national development by:

- i. strengthening art education programmes in schools, museums and at public national cultural facilities;
- ii. encouraging public and non-governmental organizations to include cultural programmes in the activities of community based organizations and self help groups;
- iii. seek increased methods of involving young people in learning indigenous knowledge systems from community leaders and elders.

2.1.0 **CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

Education should be functional, lifelong and balanced, allowing for training and acquisition of skills that bring together traditional knowledge and contemporary global issues. The Nigerian educational system must be based on both the traditions and cultural values of her people and provide for the challenges of modernization, globalization and technology. Therefore, Government shall:

- i. involve public and private stakeholders in the restructuring of the total school environment from its physical structures to content and materials used in teaching and learning;
- ii. provide training programmes to encourage cultural enterprise and promote self-employment through creative industries;
- iii. facilitate training programmes to improve professionalism in the education and cultural sectors;
- iv. Promote an educational system that motivates and stimulates creativity, enhances cultural understanding and develops moral values and positive conduct.

2.1.2 **CULTURE AND NATIONAL HEALTHCARE**

In Nigeria, traditional medical care is dependent on our indigenous knowledge and belief systems. The country has a strong herbal heritage based on the wide variety of flora and fauna available throughout the country. In order to strengthen our traditional healthcare, the Government shall:

- i. continue to take inventory of, document and encourage research into utilization of medicinal herbs in healthcare as a connection to our past and as a link to our future;
- ii. encourage the use of the literary, visual and performing arts as vehicles for disseminating information about this aspect of our cultural heritage.

2.1.3 **CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE**

Agriculture is a vital aspect of Nigeria's history and culture. The continuation of agricultural systems is more than folklore; it is a means of sustaining the livelihood of a majority of Nigeria's people. With an aging population and migration from rural to urban areas, the increasing demand for food is strained. The National Policy on Culture:

- i. recognizes the need to document and preserve traditional agricultural practices and include them in teaching young people about the heritage of our country;
- ii. recognizes the need to document both the tangible and intangible aspects of our agrarian practices with a view to establishing a database for homegrown scientific studies as resources for future generations;
- iii. recognizes the need to develop export markets for local products;
- iv. recognizes the need to compile an inventory of best practices and innovative experiences in environmental and natural resource management.

2.1.4 **CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Culture encapsulates the people's living styles, patterns and habits which are central to the survival of the environment. Hence, the protection of the natural environment against such acts as reckless exploitation of mineral wealth, deforestation, erosion, bush-burning and desertification as well as natural disasters, can be achieved through the instruments of culture. To ensure this, Government at all levels shall:

- i. through legislation, initiate national conservation policies oriented towards the protection, preservation, documentation and development of the tangible and intangible resources inherent in the environment;
- ii. ensure that a Cultural Impact Assessment is required as a pre-requisite for every social and economic project and capital development plan;

- iii. seek to harmonize indigenous knowledge and wisdom with conventional environmental management practices and encourage educational institutions and research centres to document indigenous environmental knowledge and skills.

2.1.4 **CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Nigerian heritage encompasses both natural and cultural resources which constitutes a substantial part of the country's tourism potential. Properly harnessed, managed and packaged, cultural and heritage tourism can significantly contribute to economic development goals, workforce development and heritage preservation. Through all governmental agencies concerned with cultural tourism, the Government shall:

- i. encourage collaborative learning programmes to ensure appropriate packaging of cultural assets and facilitate marketing programmes to increase cultural tourism;
- ii. strengthen relevant institutions to provide adequate training and services to maximize economic development opportunities via the tourism industry;
- iii. integrate local communities into the management and exploration of the tourism industry;
- iv. preserve, protect and maintain public museums, monuments and sites and all cultural facilities as a means to encourage tourism;
- v. develop a public education campaign to involve all Nigerians as ambassadors for encouraging tourism.

2.1.5 **CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Culture, Science and Technology are three interrelated tools which all human societies employ in their efforts to survive within their environments. It is important to capitalize on traditions and attainments evidenced in the Nok Terra Cotta sculpture (5,000 B.C.) Ife, Benin, and Igbo Ukwu bronzes and the Dufuna Canoe which describes the knowledge and mastery of our people. These outstanding achievements and knowledge systems encourage us to maintain our commitment to using art, culture and heritage as a platform for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Government shall:

- i. encourage continued research into our indigenous technological systems and cultural assets in order to harness and harmonize them with contemporary technological innovations;
- ii. create an enabling environment for introducing modern technology at the grassroots level, especially in rural communities;

- iii. undertake an inventory of traditional technological and scientific resources with a view to establishing a data base of resources;
- iv. encourage the establishment of research training centres to enhance the preservation, promotion and development of traditional technology and associated knowledge and know-how of Nigerian people;
- iv. encourage the integration of traditional technology into the national educational system, particularly in vocational and technical education.

2.1.6 **CULTURE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Cultural industries offer infinite possibilities for employment and economic development. Individual artists and artisans, heritage preservation initiatives, media production and all aspects of tourism offer significant potential for job creation. The Government shall therefore initiate action to ensure:

- i. the empowerment of young people through arts and crafts schools, apprenticeships and training programmes;
- ii. the development of awareness-raising campaigns that will sensitize the larger population about the importance of preserving cultural heritage assets;
- iii. the mainstreaming of culture as a cross-cutting theme in poverty reduction strategies;
- iv. the encouragement of inter-agency collaborations that markets arts and cultural products and experiences to domestic and international audiences;
- v. the provision of financial resources for cultural educational and job training programmes around the country.

SECTION THREE

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES



3.0.1 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The Cultural Policy of Nigeria envisages that the State, represented by the various tiers of government, will play a pivotal role in the establishment of the necessary legal empowerment and institutional framework for the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage. Government ministries, departments, parastatals and agencies are expected to play various roles in ensuring an enabling cultural environment, comprising appropriate legislation, policies, regulatory mechanisms, infrastructure and facilities required for a viable cultural sector.

Apart from state organs, civil society organizations and the private sector have their own contributions to make in enhancing cultural development. It is also the responsibility of civil society organizations to generate new ideas and greater understanding for the needs and aspirations of local communities. They can do this by translating public policies into concrete programmes and projects at the local community level.

The responsibilities of the private sector include the mobilization of resources needed to support cultural programmes, employment generation and income creation. By promoting entrepreneurial skills, the private sector assists cultural workers, artists, craftsmen and artisans in broadening the outlets for cultural goods and services. It should be emphasized that these artists, culture practitioners and custodians of traditional knowledge, are the key actors and operators of the cultural sector.

In the light of the above, the implementation of this policy shall involve the collaboration and participation of different levels and categories of stakeholders, whose partnership is critical to achieving these goals.

3.0.2 CULTURE AND THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria puts culture on the concurrent list of actions, which means that both the Federal and State governments have jurisdiction to enact laws which they deem appropriate for the preservation and promotion of culture. More significantly, the 1999 Constitution contains a directive on Nigerian culture by providing in Section 21 that the State shall:

- i. protect, preserve and promote the Nigerian cultures which enhance human dignity and are consistent with the fundamental objectives as provided in this (Chapter Two); and
- ii. encourage development of technological and scientific studies which enhance cultural values.

3.0.3 CULTURE AND NATIONAL LAWS

There are diverse laws at both the Federal and State levels, which regulates cultural life in Nigeria. In addition, there are by-laws at local government levels that perform the same function. Federal statutes set norms for the regulation of specific areas of cultural life such as:

- i. Copyrights Decree No. 47 of 1988
- ii. The National Film and Video Censor's Board Act
- iii. The Acts setting up the National Theatre and the National Troupe, the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, National Council for Arts and Culture, Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization, National Gallery of Art and National Institute for Cultural Orientation, etc.

3.0.4 INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND DECLARATIONS ON CULTURE

Nigeria has subscribed to several international conventions, treaties and declarations which protect and promote culture and international cultural relations. These include the:

- i. Convention Concerning the Protection of World Culture and Natural Heritage, Paris, 16th November, 1972.
- ii. 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.
- iii. The Berne Convention on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.
- iv. The Rome Convention on the Protection of Performers, Phonogram Producers and Broadcasting Organizations.

- V. Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 26th March, 1999).
- vi. UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects Rome, 24th June, 1995).
- vii. The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, Paris, 3rd November, 2001.
- viii. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris, 17th October, 2003.
- ix. Convention for Protection of Cultural Diversity of Cultural Content and Artistic Expression. Paris, 20th October, 2005.

Nigeria maintains bilateral and multilateral relations with many nations and is an active participant with most of the intergovernmental agencies that promotes and administers culture across the globe, and to whose treaties and conventions Nigeria is a signatory. These include the United Nations (UN), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Africa Union (AU), World Health Organization, (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), etc.

Various national cultural agencies maintain co-operative relationships with several international agencies with similar cultural mandates, for example, the National Commission for Museums and Monuments with International Centre for the study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the National Troupe with the World Council of Dance, etc.

3.0.5 **CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Since the promulgation of the 1988 Cultural Policy in Nigeria, emphasis has increasingly been placed on the cultural sector, leading to the creation of a Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism and many other agencies or parastatals which administer diverse aspects of culture in Nigeria.

3.0.6 **FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND NATIONAL ORIENTATION**

Among the responsibilities of the Ministry are:

- a. the formulation, development and enforcement of policies regulatory mechanisms, standards and guidelines in all areas of culture;
- b. definition and determination of overall government programmes on culture;
- c. provision and maintenance of appropriate cultural infrastructure, facilities and resources for national cultural programmes, with the participation of other stakeholders;
- d. provision of the appropriate legislation for facilitating the implementation of this policy as well as other international instruments, declarations, strategies principles and cultural agreements;
- e. provision of support for cultural programmes and activities;
- f. encouragement and support of the formulation of cultural unions and associations for enhancing the coordination of relations with private sector and civil society cultural organizations;
- g. provision of technical and financial support to cultural associations or unions;
- h. the establishment and maintenance of administrative structures and organs for facilitating effective coordination and implementation of this policy and various programmes;
- i. monitoring, evaluation and periodic review of the policy;
- j. capacity-building for cultural practitioners;
- k. advocacy and awareness campaigns of cultural activities;
- i. development of Principles and Guidelines for Cultural Impact assessment development policies and actions;
- m. promotion and propagation of Nigerian culture;
- n. provision of guidelines and advisory services to all sectors of development relation to the mainstreaming of cultural issues in their strategies, programmes and projects;
- o. protection of Nigerians and the environment from the negative effects of tourism;
- p. administration and coordination of cultural cooperation programmes and activities;
- q. promotion of cultural and eco-tourism;

- r. Development and promotion of cultural and natural sites, historical monuments and museums;
- s. Protection of Nigerians from the negative effects of commercial activities, e.g, mineral exploitation, logging, etc., and;
- t. Encouragement of participation by communities, civil society and other stakeholders, in the conservation and promotion of natural and cultural sites. In addition to the Ministry, the following agencies and parastatals have been established to administer various aspects of culture:

- i. **The National Theatre**

The National Theatre is the apex theatre facility in Nigeria dedicated to all aspects of the performing as well as visual arts. It was the venue of the 1977 Second World Festival of Black African Arts and Culture (FESTAC).

- ii. **Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization**

The Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) is the repository of the materials used during the Second World Festival of Black and African Arts and Culture tagged FESTAC '77'. These materials include films, slides, books, pamphlets, etc. The Centre is mandated to promote all aspects of African culture in Africa and its Diaspora.

- iii. **National Council for Arts and Culture**

The National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) is responsible for promoting craft production in Nigeria and the facilitation of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) annually.

- iv. **National Commission for Museums and Monuments**

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments (MCM) is responsible for the safe custody of the nation's antiquities and historic sites.

- v. **National Gallery of Art**

The National Gallery of Art is responsible for the promotion, preservation and development of the nation's contemporary art.

- vi. **National Institute for Cultural Orientation**

The National Institute for Cultural Orientation is responsible for the training and orientation of cultural workers, policy makers and thought leaders.

vii. **National Troupe of Nigeria**

The National Troupe of Nigeria is the nation's central performing troupe with a mandate to use music, drama and dance to promote Nigeria's culture, both at home and abroad.

viii. **Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation**

The Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation is responsible for promoting the nation's tourism potential domestically and internationally.

3.0.7 **OTHER FEDERAL MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs)**

Other MDAs have statutory functions which also make them active stakeholders in the promotion and sustenance of cultural awareness.

These include:

- i. Federal Ministry of Information and Communication and other agencies under the Ministry.
- ii. Federal Ministry of Education.
- iii. Federal Ministry of Health.
- iv. Federal Ministry of Housing, Environment and Urban Development and other agencies under the Ministry especially the National Parks Services.
- v. Federal Ministry of Justice and the National Copyright Commission.

3.0.8 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Most States have Arts and Culture Councils or agencies. In addition, some have Ministries which have culture as part of their jurisdiction, e.g. Ministry of Culture and Tourism; Ministry of Education and Culture; Youth and Culture, etc.

3.0.9 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS**

The functions of cultural administration at the local government level falls within constitutional responsibilities of the states. Local governments have numerous traditional festivals and activities within their communities which play an important role in cultural preservation. The significant responsibilities of local government in regard include:

- a. development of local cultural policies, based on the guidance of the National Policy on Culture and the guidance and direction of the State and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation;
- b. implementation of local projects in consultation with the States and the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation especially in relation to the development of local museums, natural sites and monuments;

- c. establishment of appropriate structures and organs for the management of local cultural affairs;
- d. mobilization of the necessary resources for the development of required infrastructure and facilities for local cultural development;
- e. encouragement and support of cultural festivals and ceremonies as a way of promoting community interaction and social cohesion;
- f. provision of technical and financial support to local cultural groups; and
- g. support of cultural exchange programmes for local artistes and cultural practitioners.

3.1.0 **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

Civil Society whether in rural or urban areas are expected to be active in social, political, religious and cultural activities. The roles of Civil Society Organizations include:

- a. facilitation of support for advocacy, sensitization and awareness campaigns to support the development of the cultural sector;
- b. encouragement of cross cultural dialogue;
- c. promotion and facilitation of the discovery of new talents and skills;
- d. provision of financial support for cultural activities;
- e. provision of support for training and capacity building programmes for cultural practitioners; and
- f. encouragement of public participation in the identification and safeguarding of cultural heritage in all its forms.

3.1.1 **THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

As a major stakeholder in the implementation of the National Cultural Policy, the private sector has the following responsibilities:

- a. provision of support for the production, marketing and dissemination of quality cultural industry products;
- b. provision of corporate funding for cultural activities and programmes;
- c. provision of industrial or commercial patronage of culture through the organization of cultural activities for their own personnel, supporting specific, cultural practitioners activities, and contributing to the establishment of foundations or endowment funds for culture; and
- d. provision of support for the preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge.

3.1.2 **TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES**

Traditional Authorities, by virtue of their social obligations are the custodians of the beliefs and practices of the people. They are therefore very active agencies of culture in Nigeria. The responsibilities of the traditional authorities include:

- a. provision of support for the organization and dissemination of cultural programmes and projects, through established traditional networks;
- b. facilitating the eradication of harmful cultural practices and institutions;
- c. preservation and promotion of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of local communities;
- d. collaborating with government, private sector, civil society and local government authorities in cultural activities; and
- e. supporting the codification and standardization of customary laws and traditional methods for mediation, arbitration and reconciliation to strengthen the dispensation of justice, conflict prevention and resolution.

3.1.3 **FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

Faith-based organizations are entities whose establishment and operations are based on religious doctrines. Apart from religious beliefs, faith-based organizations are governed by certain moral principles and social consideration. They therefore have an important role to play in promoting culture. Among their responsibilities are:

- i. provision of moral education in the context of culture, tradition and values;
- ii. use of the pulpit and other religious structures and organs in the dissemination of cultural matters; and
- iii. contribution to local languages and literary education, vocational and technical education.

3.1.4 **OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES**

There are many other stakeholders, both public and private, with various responsibilities in the promotion of culture and implementation of this Cultural Policy. They include: The Ministries of Finance, Science and Technology, Agriculture and Rural Development, Foreign Affairs, Education and Economic Planning.

SECTION FOUR

FRAMEWORK FOR FINANCING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW



i. **Tax Rebates**

Generally, a good tax system must exhibit convenience and administrative efficiency. As a corollary, the government of all levels shall put in place, a tax regime that would enable good corporate citizens to enjoy commensurate tax rebate proportionate in pro-rata basis to the level of support they give to cultural activities.

ii. **Tax Holiday**

Aware of the endemic problem of multiple taxation, which has become an obstacle to business, it is important that in order to support cultural activities, tax holiday for a certain limited period be given to companies and business concern that have shown appreciable level of financial commitment with a benchmark set up for such tax holidays.

iii. **ENTERTAINMENT TAX**

The Government shall ensure that a percentage contribution from Entertainment tax charged during artistic performances and productions be dedicated to replenish and enrich the culture sector.

iv. **LOTTERY**

Lottery shall be encouraged as a policy to raise funds for cultural activities.

v. **ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS**

The government shall ensure compulsory percentage contribution from projects involving earth movements such as roads and rail construction, mining, building projects, towards environmental enhancement and the protection of the associated archeological and anthropological heritage. To this end, pre- and post impact studies shall be part and parcel of any contract. Government at all levels shall encourage a conscious embellishment of its environment with culturally compatible artworks in order to promote Nigerian culture.

vi. **EMBELLISHMENT**

Government at all levels shall encourage a conscious embellishment of its environs with culturally compliant materials in order to promote Nigerian culture.

Vii **BUDGET ALLOCATION**

In view of the widely recognized place of culture in the sustainable development of any nation, it is imperative for Government to increase budgetary allocation to the sector. This must be the starting point.

viii **ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

The Government shall establish an Endowment Fund for the Arts to which government organizations, non-governmental organization, corporate corporations shall contribute. The government shall compel Corporate Organizations and Multinationals to contribute one percent of their profit to arts and culture.

ix **SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS**

The Government shall encourage special funding and endowments of specific cultural research projects in related institutions and establishments by public sector organizations in commerce and industry.

x. **REDUCTION OF IMPORT DUTY ON CULTURAL MATERIALS**

Culture Industries such as the textile industry, visual and performing arts, publishing, furniture making, basketry, ceramics, etc. form the cornerstone of the economy of any nation. It is therefore imperative for import duties on cultural materials related to the cultural industries, be reduced to the minimum.

xi. **DONOR AGENCIES**

The Government shall encourage international donor agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and multi-national foundations, etc., to contribute to cultural development.

4.0.1 **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The monitoring of the performance of the cultural sector should be formal and informal. The formal is institutional, whereby Government, through the concerned Ministry and appropriate agencies, has the official responsibility to monitor and evaluate the performance of the various organizations in the sector. The informal can be monitored through the activities of cultural stakeholders and traditional rulers.

4.0.2 **PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE POLICY**

The Cultural Policy shall be reviewed, at least once every eight (8) years in accordance with UNESCO guidelines.

