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FORWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS
MAJOR GENERAL MUHAMMADU BUHARI (N/308) RETIRED

1. Your letter dated 15 January 2015 which requested for information on the academic and Service records of Major General Muhammadu Buhari (Retired) is hereby acknowledged. The former Head of State was born on 17 December 1942 and attended Provincial Secondary School, Katsina between 1956 – 1961. He applied to join the military as a Form Six student of the Provincial Secondary School, Katsina on 18 October 1961 (Enclosure 1). His application was duly endorsed by the Principal of the School, who also wrote a report on him and recommended him suitable for military commission (Enclosures 2 – 3). It is a practice in the Nigerian Army that before candidates are shortlisted for commissioning into the officer cadre of the Service, the selection board verifies the original copies of their credentials. However, this Department is not privy to what obtained in the 1960s. Records available in the Nigerian Army, based on the entry made in Nigerian Army Form 199A at the point of documentation after commission, indicated that the former Head of State obtained the West African School Certificate (WASC) in 1961 and had credits in relevant subjects; English Language, Geography, History, Health Science and Hausa with a pass in English Literature (Enclosure 4). Major General Muhammadu Buhari's WASC is however not in his personal file as it was not the practice of this Department to keep such document at that time. The practice of maintaining photocopies of academic credentials of officers in their personal files commenced in the 1980s.

2. Major General Muhammadu Buhari (Retired) commenced his preliminary military training at the then Nigerian Military Training College, Kaduna on 19 April 1962 and proceeded to the United Kingdom to complete his cadet training at Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot. He was commissioned in the rank of second lieutenant on 26 January 1963. He attended relevant military courses including the United States Army War College Course in Pennsylvania and Defence Services Staff Course in Wellington, India