



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

8th October, 2021

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 101ST NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING HELD AT GATEWAY ICT POLYTECHNIC, SAAPADE, OGUN STATE

Preamble

The NEC meeting was held between 4th – 8th October, 2021 under the Chairmanship of the Union`s President, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe. NEC deliberated extensively on perennial and existential challenges bedeviling the Polytechnic sub-sector and the general wellbeing of Nigerians, and adopted the following positions:

1. The worsening insecurity in the nation is a cause for concern for all well-meaning citizens and citizen groups. NEC, therefore calls on governments at all levels to seek more creative and proactive approaches to strengthening the security infrastructure of the nation, in terms of building capacity and motivation for personnel, and engaging modern technologies in confronting rising insurgency, banditry and general terrorism.
2. NEC compliments government`s policy drive towards guaranteeing food security in Nigeria and generating employment for the teeming unemployed youth, but admonishes government to note that such laudable goals cannot be achieved if the attacks on communities and farmers are not curbed.
3. NEC observes the pervasive breaches of the Polytechnic Act 2019 (as amended), in some Federal institutions, and the failure of most state-owned institutions to initiate the domestication of the Act. NEC therefore, calls on Federal and State governments to comply with the spirit and letter of the Act as amended.
4. Bothered by the impending signals to increase the prices of petroleum products and electricity tariff in the country despite Mr. President`s assent of the Petroleum Industry Bill and the inherent conditions for the privatization of the power sector, NEC expressed concern about the plight of average Nigerians and therefore urges the government to be public spirited in policy initiation and implementation.

5. NEC appraised and faulted government's diligence in executing the Memorandum of Action (MOA) entered into with ASUP, and which implementation was a precondition for the suspension of the Union's strike in June, 2021. NEC urges government to expedite action on implementing all the outstanding items in the MOA, especially the release of the approved 15 billion Naira Revitalization fund to the sector and the immediate payment of the 10 months Minimum Wage Arrears owed to members. In this regard, government should accept full responsibility for any disruption of academic activities that may ensue in Nigeria's polytechnics and similar institutions.
6. NEC applauded the Nigerian Senate for the initiation and speedy passage of the Bill against the discrimination of HND holders, and calls on all Polytechnic graduates to uphold professional etiquette, demonstrate their skills, knowledge and intellectual wherewithal in all their endeavours. NEC also appealed for concurrence of the bill at the House of Representatives and its subsequent assent by the President.
7. NEC showed deep displeasure at TETFUND's skewed policy on foreign scholarship sponsorship which showed noticeable stake-holding imbalance. NEC, therefore, urges TETFUND to review this recent policy and to always carry along all critical stake-holders in sensitive policy reviews.
8. Worried by the non-remittances of Union check-up dues from staff salary in some States institutions such as Imo, Rivers, Abia, Plateau, Zamfara, Niger and Kebbi States, NEC urges governments of the aforementioned states to hasten the release of Union dues in order to forestall any form of industrial disharmony.
9. NEC was dismayed by the abrupt suspension of the management of Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri by the Borno State Governor, and called on the Governor to reconsider his decision and respect due process in exercising his executive fiat.

CONCLUSION:

NEC recognizes the efforts of governments in curbing the security challenges that are undermining the socio-economic and general development of the country, and called on all citizens to support the authorities in securing the country as a recipe for development.

NEC further appeals to all Nigerians to come together, irrespective of climes, in defense of peace, unity and the continuous corporate existence of Nigeria as an indivisible entity.



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