



From The **PRESIDENT'S** Desk

encouragement the current leadership of the Union has been enjoying in all programs and endeavors from inception.

We have equally ensured the lubrication of the partnership of critical stakeholder-groups like the Federal Ministry of Education, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), the Committee of Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Polytechnics, Committee of Heads of Polytechnics, as well as the body of Librarians, Registrars, Bursars and other sister Trade Unions in the sector. This is vital to our quest for improved working conditions for members, advancement and stability for the sector-and by extension, enhanced value addition to technical and technological education in the country.

We therefore appreciate the support of members, through the feedbacks received from the Union's social media handles and during congresses as such has indeed been the oxygen for this administration. We are equally renewing our pledge that the support shall not be taken for granted, as we paddle through the increasingly difficult operating climate for Trade Unions in the country.

We appreciate the diligence of the editorial team, secretariat staff, and all who played different roles in the rebirth of the **ASUP News Bulletin**, with the pledge of continued support to ensure that its production is sustained.

It is our hope that members will find the contents of this edition relevant and enriching.

Anderson U. Ezeibe
(President)

The successes of a thriving Trade Union like ours is anchored on its ability to effectively mobilize members towards achieving set goals and objectives. It is also trite to note that free flow of information is fundamental to effective mobilization. The rebirth of the **ASUP News Bulletin** in this dispensation is therefore critical to access to information for members of the Union and the public, and to that extent, an important instrument for mobilization of members.

Mobilization tours to Chapters were undertaken across the 4 Zones of the Union in the recent past, to engage members on our programs and activities, and to get adequate feedback, to enrich the content of the Union's several engagement fronts with our employers, policy makers, and other stakeholder-groups in the sector. These tours, as enriching as they were, can only be sustained through effective communication channels like this News Bulletin. This, again, underlines the importance of the rebirth of the **ASUP News Bulletin** which is loaded with relevant news content on the growth of our Union.

In the new effort, the support of our former Presidents (The Think-Tank Committee of the Union), other former National Officers, serving members of the Council of National Officers (CNO), and indeed members of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Union, has been indispensable. This is indeed consistent with the quality

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ASUP DEMANDS DEGREE-AWARDING STATUS FOR NIGERIAN POLYTECHNICS

The leadership of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) has met with the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu in Abuja, on the need for polytechnics in Nigeria to be granted degree awarding status. In a position paper presented to the Minister, the President of the

position the sector to meet up with global trends when adopted by the Ministry.

Responding, the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, who received the Union, in company of the Chairman of Chairmen of Governing Council of Federal Polytechnics in Nigeria,



ASUP President, Anderson Ezeibe Presenting the Union's Position paper on Award of Degrees by Polytechnics to Education Minister, Mallam Adamu Adamu while chairman of Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Polytechnics, Arch. Waziri Bulama looks on

Union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe, said Polytechnics in Nigeria today have adequate manpower and facilities to warrant mounting Bachelor of Technology degrees in line with global best practices.

He further stated that the metamorphosis of Polytechnics into Technical Universities or Polytechnic Universities across the globe is good example that will not only help resolve the problem of low profiling of polytechnic education in Nigeria, but will

Arch Waziri Bulama, and other officials of the Ministry, thanked ASUP for the role it has continued to play in the transformation of Polytechnic Education in Nigeria, and for developing a position paper that will add value to the sector, and also help in addressing some of the problems bedeviling it. He said, the Ministry will study the document and take appropriate action on it.



Editorial

assembled some of the best news items concerning the union at the National level-covering our engagements with the Federal Ministry of Education, NBTE, TETFund and other agencies of Government. This indicates our knack for growth and progress; and the synergy the union has formed to advance the course of the polytechnic sector in Nigeria. We also have news from the Zones of the union which succinctly buttress that every organ of the union is active, delivering positive results in the direction of the new order. Our team also had a catch on the President of the union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe, in an Interview Session that is captivating and expository, that every reader will find inviting.

This edition is inevitably-educating, riveting and cogent, wrapped with relevant pictures to create a visual statement, and make every story worth-while. Our team invite you therefore, to read the details of the package, and send any feedback and perspective that will enrich subsequent editions.

The Editorial team is indebted to all organs of the union, for their compelling inputs which ensured that this edition is made; and with a pledge to sustain the *new start*, even with brighter glamour. While we urge you to keep a date with us, kindly understand our inability to cover every news item in this edition, for want of space. And because, news coverage, like human nature, is deadline-oriented.

Abdulaihi Yalwa
National Publicity Secretary
&
Editor-In-Chief

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NBTE REVIEWS POLYTECHNICS' NORMATIVE INSTRUMENT

The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has reviewed the normative instrument that guides the establishment and sustainability of programmes to ensure the development of Polytechnics and similar Post-Secondary Technical and

These institutions offer HND, ND, and other programmes, leading to the award of technical certificates. The new normative instrument makes it mandatory for proprietors of the institutions to meet up with the basic extant laws regulating technical education in the country, and the minimum requirement of physical facilities, approved curriculum, adequate staffing and funding for capital projects, and recurrent expenditure for the programmes to be mounted by the institutions.

A key component of the new normative instrument, the Board said, is the regular payment of staff emoluments by proprietors of the institutions to ensure uniformity of standards, and to safeguard quality assurance mechanism.

NBTE further stated that any institution that fails to meet up with minimum requirements stipulated in the new law, risks suspension of accreditation visits for renewal of programmes.



Vocational Educational Training Institutes (TVET) in Nigeria.

TETFUND INAUGURATES STANDING COMMITTEES, INCREASES POLYTECHNIC REPRESENTATION

The Tertiary Education Trust fund (TETFund) has inaugurated two committees to promote institutional research and development, and revamp the fading reading culture among Nigerians, as well as promote indigenous authorship from

Establishment ACT, 2011, are the National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&M) that is to encourage the conduct of applied research and innovation by academics; and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which has the mandate of promoting the growth of indigenous books and journals as well as the development and Academic Publishing Centres to cater for the needs of the various tertiary institutions in the country.

The inauguration of the committees which took place at the Nicon Hilton Hotels & Towers, Abuja, also witnessed an increase in the number of representatives from the polytechnic sector on the two committees as demanded by ASUP to enhance the participation of the sector in TETFund research initiatives.



the various academic disciplines.

The two Committees, which are in line with the Trust Fund

ASUP HOSTS ADVOCACY ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUTURE OF NIGERIAN POLYTECHNICS

The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) has hosted an Advocacy Roundtable to discuss Polytechnic Education in Nigeria and its relevance to national development. The event which took place in Abuja attracted critical stakeholders in the education sector, who deliberated extensively on the problems bedeviling polytechnics in Nigeria.

The President of the Union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe, in his opening address, said that

underfunded and underdeveloped Polytechnics education system in Nigeria'.

The Chairman of the occasion and former Executive Governor of Kano State, Senator Ibrahim Shekarau, applauded the ASUP for providing the platform for stakeholders to appraise the polytechnic sector and to chart a course for its growth and development. The new approach by the union, he said, is 'the hallmark of responsible unionism and the standard of discourse we seek to foster in our nation. This feat deserves the commendation of every Nigerian'.

A pool of resource persons from the different tiers of the tertiary sector, relevant MDAs and the private sector that presented papers at the event advocated for improved polytechnic education in Nigeria towards the nation's economic and

review of the laws and statutes of Polytechnics in Nigeria as well as an improved mechanism for supervision and regulation of the institutions. Other key demands of the Union include adequate funding of polytechnics,

belief that the Federal Government team at the re-negotiation which is led by the Chairman of Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Polytechnics in Nigeria, Architect Waziri Bulama, has the experience and desire to



removal of the dichotomy between degree and HND holders, better emoluments and improved conditions of service for academic staff; and a conducive learning and teaching environment. The President of the Union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe, has expressed the Union's

address the issues militating against the development of polytechnic education in Nigeria. The President further employs Government to respect the principles of collective bargaining and ensure implementation of the agreement that will be signed at the end of the exercise.



Polytechnics in Nigeria which were conceived to drive the nation's technology development have failed to create the much-needed impact as a result of inadequate funding, constricted mandate, static curricula, poor culture of linkages between Polytechnics and the industry, dichotomy between HND and degree certificates, and the poor working environment, among other factors.

The Advocacy Roundtable, he said, was the Union's initiative that is expected 'to come up with implement-able plans that will change the narrative of the currently

technological competitiveness.

There were goodwill messages from the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, who was represented by the Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Professor Idris Bugaje, Chairman, House Committee on Education, Registrar of JAMB, Professor Is'haq Oloyede, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Chairman of Councils of Chairmen of Federal Polytechnics in Nigeria, as well as ASUU, COFERS, and CO-HEADS, among other participants.

2021 RE-NEGOTIATION: ASUP TARGETS HOLISTIC OVERVIEW OF POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION

The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) has advocated for a holistic review of Polytechnic

education in Nigeria. This is contained in a document titled: 'Repositioning Technical Education for National Development' which the Union presented at the ongoing renegotiation of the 2009 Agreement between the FGN and ASUP.

Outlining priority areas that will form the thrust of the renegotiation, the union wants a

ASUP ORGANIZES CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS FOR OFFICERS

Capacity Building Workshops have been organized for officers across the four Zones of the Union on the theme: 'Promoting Good Governance among Labour Unions of Polytechnics'.



Anderson U. Ezeibe, ASUP President

Addressing participants at the various zones, the President of the Union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe, said the programme was aimed at providing platform for officers of the Union to learn from the experiences of veterans in the struggle; and to ensure harmonious working relationship between the Union and Management. He further stated that new trends around the world call for the use of the principles of composite concessionary, integrative, productive, and distributive bargaining in industrial relations, which he said, can only be achieved in responsible unionism.

The various resource persons at the workshop applauded the ASUP for attaining sustainable growth and development as a trade union; and enjoined the participants to apply the knowledge acquired at the workshop to improve the condition of their members and to sustain the dignity of labour.

INTERVIEW

I will love to be remembered for innovative ways of engagement – ASUP President

*In a fascinating interview session with a member of our Editorial team, the President of the Union, **Comrade Anderson Ezeibe** spoke on the successes the Union has recorded in recent times, the challenges confronting Polytechnics in Nigeria, and strategies being deployed by the Union to reposition the sector. A full transcript of the interview is below:*

Interviewer: *You are in your second tenure as President of the Union. How has the journey been so far?*

ASUP President: It has really been challenging at this time, leading a demanding Trade Union like ours, within such a difficult economic and socio-political climate in the country.

Interviewer: *Many believe that ASUP has moved into a new era of unionism, making new waves and strong articulations for the transformation of the sector. What really is the secret behind your success?*

ASUP President: The current leadership indeed, has navigated the Union into a new era of strong and consistent advocacy programs with other stakeholders who are involved in our issues. This approach is in response to the tough and dynamic operating environment we found ourselves as a trade Union in the country. We also deploy the traditional instruments of engagement anytime we are convinced that such approach will yield the desired results.

Interviewer: *In 2021, the Union organized a Roundtable Advocacy that drew critical stakeholders of the country. What was the main thrust of that event, and what has come out of it?*

ASUP President: The Advocacy Roundtable organized by the Union interrogated the future of the Nigeria Polytechnic System, particularly in areas of certification, funding, research and development, entrepreneurship development and curriculum development. This is in view of the multifaceted challenges in the sector and the need for the sector to reassert its relevance to the nation, and also to compete globally.

The Roundtable generated consensus amongst stakeholders on the key items as outlined. The union has carried out a stakeholder mapping on the issues and is now deepening the engagements on each of the issues with the relevant stakeholders starting with the issue of certification.

Interviewer: *What is the level of the ongoing re-negotiation of the 2009 signed Agreement between FGN & ASUP, and what should be the expectation of members from the engagement?*

ASUP President: The re-negotiation process is still ongoing, though at a slow pace. The issue of improved emoluments for our members is yet to be concluded as it is before a technical committee which is evaluating the Union's submission as contained in the ASUP Charter of demands.



Anderson U. Ezeibe, ASUP President

Members should be patient with the process as it is equally being affected by events in the renegotiation process of other unions in the sector. We are however confident of negotiating the best possible terms in our conditions of service and general well-being of the Nigeria Polytechnics system.

Interviewer: *How will you describe the relationship between the Union and Government agencies on issue of compliance with extant laws on the general administration of Polytechnics in Nigeria?*

ASUP President: The Union is still in dispute at different levels, particularly with the Federal Ministry of Education on issues of inadequate supervision, infractions in the Polytechnics Act, as well as encroachment into the field of regulation. We are battling it out in the court as well as other engagement platforms with marginal successes recorded. We are determined to sustain the engagements until the acceptable level of sanctity is restored to the sector.

Interviewer: *There are crises plagued Chapters in ASUP from the various Zones. What is your leadership doing to address these challenges?*

ASUP President: We are handling the issues according to their respective peculiarities. We are preparing to engage the congress in FedPoly Nasarawa with a view to conducting elections

there. In FedPoly Bida, the Committee working on the dispute has just concluded their assignment and elections will soon be conducted too. In Ibadan Poly, the judicial encumbrance has been vacated and we are preparing for engagements with members on the way forward. In RUGIPO, efforts are equally being made to restart the Union; while in IMT Enugu, the issue of the dismissed officers of the Union is being handled progressively. The Union has equally prevailed in the courts in UYO as it affects FEDPOLY UKANA and Benue State Polytechnic Ogbokolo, and normalcy has been returned to the chapters.

Interviewer: *Recently, ASUP de-registered some of its Chapters for non-participation in the Union's activities. Some of them are working to be readmitted. What is the Union's position on this?*

ASUP President: Yes, the 16th National Delegates Conference in 2021 approved the de-registration of 29 “nonfunctional” chapters. The idea is to instill discipline in the administration of the union in line with the constitution. Some of the affected chapters are indeed working to get back into the fold by addressing the anomalies associated with their operations. However, the final decision as it affects re-admittance lies with the NDC.

Interviewer: *The Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities alleged that Chief Lecturers of Polytechnics earn more salary than their University counterparts (Professors). This allegation was used as justification for the need to increase salary for the professors. What is the take of ASUP on this?*

ASUP President: ASUP has already reacted to the fallacious statement of the Vice Chancellors as it is capable of derailing the ongoing renegotiation of our agreement with the government. We are surprised that such falsehood can come from such a respected body. We have put out a statement to put the records straight. The reference and comparison of the salaries was indeed needless. There is no need for any rivalry amongst the unions in the education sector as each should negotiate acceptable conditions of service for their members through collective bargaining processes.

Interviewer: *What will you like to be remembered for, as President of ASUP?*

ASUP President: I would love to be remembered as a President who introduced innovative ways of engagement with stakeholders, instilled discipline in the administration of the union at all levels; restoring sanity in the administration of our Polytechnics, improving on the conditions of service of our members, securing a strong economic base for the union and generally having a viable and potent Union with the capacity to fight for members and the sector.

Interviewer: *Thank you very much, Mr. President*

ASUP President: Thank you!

NEWS FROM THE ZONES

Zone A

KADUNA POLYTECHNIC CHAPTER ERECTS 1000-CAPACITY HALL IN HONOUR OF FIRST ASUP PRESIDENT

The Kaduna chapter of the Union is erecting a 1000-capacity multi-purpose hall in honour of the first President of the

responsible events.

The Chairman of the Chapter, Comrade Mohammed Mohammed, said Comrade Hadi Auwal who was a



Union, late Comrade Hadi Auwal. The project which is funded by members' check-off dues has reached 75% completion, and will be utilized for Union activities and interested members of the public for

staff of the Polytechnic until his demise played a prominent role, and made enormous sacrifices as pioneering President of the ASUP to lay the foundation on which the Union stands today.

KAURA NAMODA CHAPTER GIFTS TO RETIREES, PROVIDES INTERNET SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

The Kaura Namoda Chapter of the Union has given out N1 Million each, as parting gift, to six members of the Union who recently retired from the services of the Polytechnic. The Chairman of the Union in the Chapter, Comrade Aminu Umar, who performed the ceremony in Kaura Namoda said the gesture was part of the welfare scheme aimed at rewarding the retiring colleagues for their contributions to the development of the Polytechnic and for serving as faithful members of the Union.

He said the N1 Million gift was an improvement on the N500,000.00 the Chapter had given each of the retired members in the past. He called on members of the Chapter to remain committed to the Union and assured them of better welfare packages in the future.

In a similar development, the

Chapter has provided 24-hour internet services to members to promote research and other academic activities. Unveiling the project, the Chairman of the Chapter, Comrade Umar said members of the academics today live in a world of global competitiveness and must abreast themselves of emerging trends in their disciplines. He stated further that internet services provide the widow to modern research and members deserve access to the facility.

A cross section of the members who spoke at the event, expressed gratitude to the Union, saying the facility will go a long way in improving their research activities and knowledge of the ICT.

In a related development, the Management of the institution, under the leadership of Engr (Dr) Bande Yahaya, has shared out laptops to sixty-seven academic staff of the institution. The gesture is in fulfilment of the Reprographic Service Agreement in the FGN/ASUP Agreement of 2009 on the development of ICT skills of academic staff.

KADUNA POLYTECHNIC GETS NEW RECTOR

The Federal Government has appointed a new Rector for Kaduna Polytechnic. He is Dr. Suleiman Umar, who until his appointment,



Dr. Suleiman Umar

was a staff of the Mathematics and Statistics Department of the Institution.

The Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, while presenting the appointment letter to the new Rector in Abuja, said his appointment was done in line with the 2019 Federal Polytechnics Act, as amended. The Minister urged the appointee to use his office to promote the growth of the institution and to ensure harmonious working

NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT APPROVES IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTISS 15 FOR LOWER CADRE

The Governing Council of the Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, has approved the implementation of CONTISS 15 Migration for the Lower Cadre staff of the Institution. It will be recalled that CONTISS 15 Migration for Upper and Lower Cadres had been approved for Polytechnics in Nigeria and implemented by most

proprietors of Polytechnics, but the Niger State Government had only approved implementation of the Upper Cadre.

Responding to the development, the chapter executives of ASUP urged the Government to back the approval with immediate implementation of the package to boost staff morale and to enhance productivity.

Zone B

PLATEAU JUASPSTI SUSPENDS STRIKE, SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Academic Staff of Plateau State Government-Owned Tertiary Institutions, under the auspices of the Joint Unions of Academic Staff of Plateau State-Government-Owned Tertiary Institutions (JUASPSTI), has suspended its two months old strike earlier embarked upon to press home their demands from government.

Announcing the suspension of the strike in Jos, JUASPSTI Chairman who doubles as ASUP Chairman, CAST Kurgwi Chapter, Comrade Lawam Tobias Deban, said that the State Government had reached an agreement with the Unions on immediate employment of additional staff in the tertiary institutions and to implement promotion arrears to affected staff.

The agreement, he said, also contained commitment by government on regular payment of staff salaries, alongside third-party deductions, as well as plans to



exempt tertiary institutions in the state from the centralized portal for payment of workers' salaries.

It will be recalled that tertiary institutions in Plateau State have been having problems with the government over irregular payment of salaries as well as non-remittance of third-party deductions and lack of employment of academic staff to fill existing vacancies.

BAUCHI STATE TERTIARY WORKERS DECRY LINGERING PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Unions of Bauchi State tertiary institutions have decried the lingering issues between the Unions and the State Government.

In a letter recently issued to the State Government in Bauchi and signed by the Chairman and General Secretary of the Joint Action Committee, Comrade Abdulkadir Mohammed Ibrahim and Comrade Bala Abdallah respectively, the JAC frowned at Government's failure to solve the problems confronting the institutions which include irregular and distorted payment of salaries in the institutions, delayed implementation of promotion exercise and yearly increment for members, haphazard implementation of 65 years retirement age for non-teaching staff, as well as the non-implementation of

the Consequential Salary Adjustment and the perennial problems associated with the Contributory Health Scheme in the



State.

The letter reminded Government of an impending indefinite strike action should they (Government) fail to address the issues within the stipulated time offered by the Unions.



President of ASUP with National Pub Sec & National Financial Sec with the HRH, the Asagba of Asaba; Delta State, during a Courtesy Call on the Monarch



Cross Section of CNO Members with the Hon. Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu and Chairman of the Committee of Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Polytechnics, Arc Waziri Bulama at the Minister's office in Abuja



HRH, Alh. (Dr) Nuhu Muhammad, the Emir of Dutse & the President of ASUP, Anderson Ezeibe at the Emir's Palace in Dutse, Jigawa State during a Courtesy Call



Members of ASUP Think-Tank (former Presidents of the Union) in Chronological Order of Tenure-ship



His Excellency, The Deputy Gov. of Jigawa State, Mallam Umar Namadi (Left) with ASUP President at the Opening Ceremonies of the 103 ASUP NEC Meeting in Jigawa Polytechnic



Group picture of the CNO with HRH the Emir of Dutse.



Faces of Participants at the 2021 ASUP Advocacy Roundtable in Abuja



Faces of Participants at the 2021 ASUP Advocacy Roundtable in Abuja



Foundation laying ceremony for the Construction of ASUP Secretariat at Ogun Institute of Technology Igbesa Chapter



Newly Completed Multipurpose Hall of ASUP, Akwa Poly Chapter



ASUP President and some members at the NLC peaceful procession in Abuja, August 2022.



ASUU President, Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke (Middle) flanked by COEASU President (Left) & ASUP President (Right) at NLC Rally in Abuja



First Quarter, 2022 NEC Meeting in honor of Late ASUP President, Cmdr. M.A. Kabir hosted by Fed. Poly. Mubi Chapter



JAMB Registrar, Prof. Is'haq Oloyede (2nd from right) and some participants at the 2021 ASUP Advocacy Roundtable



Stakeholders in Abuja, at consideration of ASUP position paper on award of degrees by Nigerian Polytechnics,



Some CNO and members of IMAP Lafia, Nasarawa State



Swearing-In Ceremony of CEC member of Fed. Poly Idah, Kogi State



ASUP President and some participants at Zone B (2020) Capacity Building Workshop for CEC members at Plateau Poly, B/Ladi.



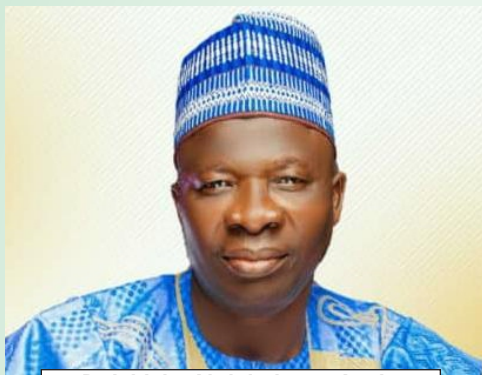
His Excellency, Senator Ibrahim Shekarau, former Gov, Kano State (Middle) at the 2021 ASUP Advocacy Roundtable in Abuja



Cross Section of Members at 2022 ASUP Day at FedPoly. Idah.

FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC MUBI HAS NEW RECTOR

A new Rector has been appointed for the Federal Polytechnic Mubi. He is Dr Ishiaka Abdulrahman Aspita, a Chief



Dr Ishiaka Abdulrahman Aspita

Lecturer in the Department of Business Management of the Institution. Born in 1962 in Okene, Kogi State, Dr Aspita began his working career as Assistant Lecturer with the Polytechnic and rose through the ranks to the position of Chief Lecturer.

Until his appointment, he had served as pioneer Director of Entrepreneurship Education Development (EED), as well as Director, Academic Planning, and Deputy Rector (Administration), of the Polytechnic. He has since assumed duties.

ATAP BAUCHI, BENUE POLYTECHNIC ELECT NEW CHAPTER EXECUTIVES

New Chapter Executive Councils (CEC) have been elected for Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi, and Benue State Polytechnic, Ogbokolo, Chapters of the Union. The Chapters' elections which were supervised by the Zonal Coordinator of Zone B, Comrade Lumpye Innocent Simji, saw the emergence of Comrades Dahiru Musa Abdullahi and Owuna Christopher as Chairmen of the two Chapters respectively.

The Electoral Committee of the election at Ogbokolo Chapter had

earlier disqualified one of the aspirants for the Chairmanship position, Mr. Augustine Ejeh, who had taken the Union to Court over allegations which the trial judge ruled in favour of ASUP.

The Zonal Coordinator, Comrade Simji Lumpye, during the swearing-in-ceremonies at the respective Chapters urged the newly inaugurated executives to work for the welfare of their members and promote good working relationship that will ensure the development of their institutions.

Zone C

ASUP PROFFERS SOLUTIONS TO SKILLED MANPOWER SHORTAGE

The Academic staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Zone C, comprising of all the States in South West Nigeria, has held its 6th National Conference at the Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, with the theme: 'The Place of Polytechnics, Monotechnics and Specialized Institutions in Combating Skilled Manpower Shortage in Nigeria'. The Conference which drew participants from across the three tiers of tertiary institutions as well as the private sector in the country focused

on the need to encourage technological development as panacea for tackling skilled manpower shortage in the nation's economy.

In his remarks, the President of the Union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe, who was represented by the Coordinator of ASUP, Zone C, Comrade Yekini Asafe, urged participants at the conference to imbibe the culture of research and innovation as key elements that will contribute to the nation's development plan. He said ASUP is working with critical stakeholders in the education sector of the country to ensure Polytechnics are granted the mandate to run degree and post-graduate programmes to end the discrimination against graduates from the sector, and make them compete with their counterparts anywhere in the world.

The Executive Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, who was represented at the event by the State Commissioner for Education, Dr Olufemi Agagu (FNIVS), expressed satisfaction with the step ASUP is taking to revamp and restore the vision of Polytechnic Education in Nigeria. The Rector, Federal Polytechnic, Ile Oluji, Professor Emmanuel Adedayo, in a key note address, encouraged scholars in the Polytechnic Sector to

indulge in ground-breaking research and skilled manpower development to boost the nation's technological growth.

The opening ceremony was also graced by His Royal Majesty, the Jagun Oluesan of Ile-Oluji, Oba

Julius Oluwole Olufaderin Adetimehin Jimoko II, and guests from all walks of life. Over two hundred research papers were presented at the conference by authors from various disciplines of the academics.

MAPOLY, COUNTS ACHIEVEMENTS, TASKS GOVERNMENT ON PENDING PROBLEMS

The Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta Chapter of ASUP has reported that following sustained struggle by the Union, the State Government has granted approval 'in principle' for the domestication and immediate implementation of the Federal Polytechnic Act (2019) as amended, pending official release of Government circular to that effect.

The Chapter Chairman, Comrade Babatunde Osifalujo said that the approval had facilitated the appointment of a substantive Rector in line with the provisions of the 2019 Act for the institution, after a long selection process.

While commending the State Government also for the constitution of the Governing Council of the

Polytechnic in line with provisions of the 2019 Act, the Chairman said the Union is still fixated over other cogent issues that are yet to be addressed by the Government which include:

Demands for increased funding of the institution; immediate release of grants to the Polytechnic for pending accreditation of programmes by the NBTE; non-payment of staff salaries as and when due; delay in the payment of the Consequential Salary Adjustment; non-remittance of 55 months pension deductions from staff salaries and its counterpart funding by Government to the respective Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs); and Non-remittance of over 27 months of the Union's check-off dues deductions by the Management of the institution.

The Chairman called on the State Government to expedite action on addressing the pending problems to forestall any break down of industrial harmony in the Polytechnic.

ASUP CONSTRUCTS DIGITAL CENTER AT FED POLY, OFFA

The Management of the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, Kwara State has roofed the Digital Centre constructed by the Union in the Zone. This is in fulfillment of the promise by the Management of the Institution during the foundation-laying

during a courtesy call on the Acting Rector of the Institution, Dr. Afolabi Olarongbe, requested the Management of the institution to fulfill the promise earlier made in order to put the facility to use.

The Digital Centre was conceived by the Union in the Zone as a means of giving back to the system in order to improve the standard of education, aid practical experience of the students, and expose them to



ceremony of the Centre in 2021. At the event, the former Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. L.A. Olatunji, had promised to roof the Centre if the Union raised it to the appropriate level. He was however unable to fulfill the promise before the end of his tenure due to paucity of funds. The Executive Council of the Union in Zone C, led by the Co-ordinator, Comrade (Engr) Yekini Asafe, had

the global system of education. The Federal Polytechnic, Offa, is among the few Polytechnics to benefit from the first batch of the Union's gesture.

The Zonal Coordinator ASUP Zone C, Comrade Yekini Asafe, the Polytechnic Librarian & ASUP CEC of FedPoly, Offa, were at the Site of the Digital Centre

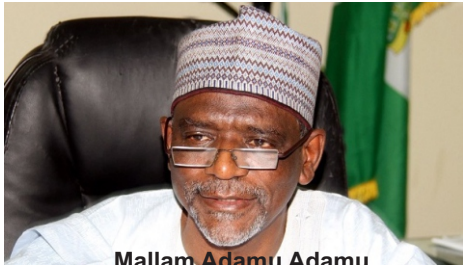


Yekini Nureni
Zone C Coordinator

ASUP DEMANDS SUBTANTIVE RECTOR FOR FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, OFFA

The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Zone C, has called on the Federal Government to expedite action towards the appointment of a substantive Rector for the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, as required by the 2019 Federal Polytechnics Act as amended.

The Zonal Coordinator of ASUP, Zone C, Comrade Yekini Asafe, in a



Mallam Adamu Adamu
Minister of Education

statement expressed the dissatisfaction of the Union that despite the interview and subsequent shortlisting of three qualified candidates for the office which was conveyed to the Federal Ministry of Education over nine months ago, nothing has been heard of it. The situation, he said, is generating tension that could impede the peace currently enjoyed in the institution.

Comrade Yekini Asafe has, in the meantime, appealed to members in the Chapter to maintain peace as the Union at the National level is making concerted efforts to ensure that Government completes the process of appointment of a substantive Rector for the Institution.

DISSATISFACTION LOOMS OVER BREACH OF LAW AND TENURE EXTENSION AT FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, EDE.

The ASUP, Federal Polytechnic, Ede Chapter, has condemned what it



described as 'reckless breach' of the Polytechnics Act by the Governing Council of the Institution.

The Chapter said, 'it is worrisome to hear the pronouncement of the Council of the institution to extend

the tenure of Head of Departments and Deans, without following laid down rules and procedures. While condemning the 'aberration', the Chapter has written to the Management of the institution to kick-start processes towards election of officers into the offices in line with the Extant law.

The Union said it will not fail to direct its members not to recognize those wrongly appointed as HODs and Deans should Council fail to adhere to standards and global best practices as the situation in the Institution is already generating tension.

FCFMT, LAGOS CHAPTER RE-ELECTS CHAIRMAN

The Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology, Victoria Island, Lagos has re-elected Comrd. (Dr) Aminu Lukuman as Chapter Chairman for another term of two years.

The election, which was supervised by the Coordinator of

ASUP, Zone C, Comrade Yekini Asafe, was peacefully conducted. The Zonal Coordinator, in company of the Chapter's CEC, had earlier paid a courtesy call on the Provost of the Institution, Dr. Paul Chukwudi Onuha, who commended the effort of the Union in maintaining peaceful co-existence with the Management, describing ASUP as 'partner in progress'.

OGITECH CHAPTER BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF SECRETARIAT

The Ogun Institute of Technology, Igbesa chapter, has embarked on the construction of a Secretariat. The ultra-modern edifice, when completed, will be a three hundred and fifty (350)-seat capacity hall, with six (6) offices, a standard Board

room, stores, toilet facilities, and a car-wash centre.

The foundation laying ceremony which was performed by the Ogun State Commissioner for Education, Prof. Abayomi Arigbabu, had in attendance the Rector of the Polytechnic, Engr. (Dr).



Olufunke Akinkurolere, as well as present and former executive members of the Union, congress members,

students and members of the press, among others.

In a similar vein, the chapter has announced the hosting of the chapter's website: <https://www.asupogitech.com.ng/> which will serve as platform for research and academic publications, workshops, and information dissemination.

Zone D

ASUP ZONE D HOLDS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

In line with the directive of the National leadership of the Union, Executive Council of ASUP, Zone D, led by Comrade Precious Nwakodo recently organized a Capacity-Building Workshop and Retreat for officials of the Union in the Zone on the theme: "Effective Administration of Trade



Union in a Challenging Environment'.

The event which took place at the Rivers State College of Health

Science and Management Technology, Port-Harcourt, attracted participants from the various Chapters of the Union in the Zone. Declaring the Workshop open, the Provost of the College, Prof. F.E. Nlerum commended the Union for the initiative and advised that such training should be extended to members to equip them with the skills of industrial relations.

The President of the Union, Comrade Anderson Ezeibe who attended the event charged members of the Zone to breast up to the challenges confronting Polytechnic education in Nigeria. He reminded the participants that 'struggles' have a proud and prominent place in the lore and symbol of unionism which must be sustained in the new industrial climate in Nigeria. He said, ASUP is up to confronting the challenge and every member must be mobilized in the process.

Some former officers from the Zone, including Comrade Chibuzo Asomugha (former President of the Union), Comrade B.G Nnaa (former National Internal Auditor and Comrade Chris Nkoro (former National Publicity Secretary) served as resource persons during the sessions.

DELTA STATE GOVERNMENT GETS 30 DAYS ULTIMATUM FROM ASUP

Members of ASUP in Delta State Polytechnics Ogwashi-Uku and Otefe-Oghara have given Governor Ifeanyi Okowa a 30-day ultimatum to reverse the obnoxious salary-subvention regime introduced for the State Government Owned Tertiary Institutions.

Addressing news men, on behalf of the Chapters, the Coordinator of Zone D, Comrade Precious Nwakodo who was flanked by Chairmen and officers of the Union in the two Institutions decried the policy which came to effect since



March, 2022. According to him, the adverse effects of the policy is already having its toll on the institutions as they can no longer pay workers' salaries regularly.

Comrade Nwakodo warned that if the Government fails to reverse the policy at the expiration of the ultimatum, the Union will call out its members in the two institutions to embark on a strike.

NBTE RESTORES ABIA POLY ACCREDITATION STATUS

Following payment of 4 months' salary arrears to workers, and acceptance by the Abia State Government to conform to the conditions of running the State Polytechnic, and make it a viable institution, as contained in the NBTE's normative



Prof. Idris Bugaje
Executive Sec. NBTE

instrument, the Board has lifted the suspension of programmes, and restored accreditation status of Abia State Polytechnic, Aba.

While lifting the suspension, the NBTE, in a statement issued by the Head of Media Department, Hajiya Fatima Abubakar, outlined

conditions upon which the accreditation status of programmes of the institution will be sustained. These include: sustained payment of salary of staff by the institution without further default, and a workable plan for settlement of the arrears owed the staff. The Board further warned that it will not hesitate to re-instate the suspension in the event of any default in the agreement reached with the State Government.

It will be recalled that in June, 2022, the NBTE had withdrawn the institutional accreditation status of the Abia State Polytechnic 'to safeguard quality assurance mechanism of the institution and to ensure that students are not left at the mercy of demoralized staff' who may be forced to undertake sharp practices to enable them survive over nonpayment of over 30 months' salary arrears by the State Government. The Board had subsequently notified the National Youths Service Scheme (NYSC), JAMB and TETFund to take appropriate actions against the Institution until the situation was resolved.

DR FELIX ATTAH APPOINTED RECTOR, AKANU IBIAM FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC

Dr. Felix Attah has been appointed as Rector of Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana, Ebonyi



Dr. Felix Attah

State and has assumed duties since August, 2022. He joined the services of the Institution in 1994 where he rose from the position of Lecturer III to Chief Lecturer.

Dr Attah held different administrative positions, including: Head of Department, Dean of School, Deputy Rector Administration, Deputy Rector Academic, Director, Academic Planning and Chairman/member of many high-profile committees in the institution, among other responsibilities.

He has many published articles both in local and international journals to his credit, and is author of numerous text books in his academic discipline. He is happily married with five (5) children

YOU ARE MISLEADING THE PUBLIC: ASUP REPLIES VICE-CHANCELLORS

The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics, has asked the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Federal Universities to stop misleading the public by claiming that Chief Lecturers in Nigerian polytechnics earn more salary than their counterparts in the Universities.

In a statement signed by the Union's Publicity Secretary, Comrade Abdullahi Yalwa, the Union said it's 'attention has been drawn to a statement from the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (CVCNU) contained in the report submitted by the body to the government during a meeting of Vice Chancellors, Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Universities and the Minister of Education on September 6, 2022'.

The CVCNU, the Union explained, conveyed the misleading impression that Chief Lecturers in Nigeria's Polytechnics and Colleges of Education earn more than Professors in the nation's Universities in order to justify the demands of ASUU for a wage increase.

The statement further said that 'it is understandable that the CVCNU made the claim in support of ASUU, but such claims will

undermine the aspiration of ASUP'.

Apart from the falsehood that is contained in their report, the Union said, 'it is improper for the CVCNU to seek to mislead Government at a time ASUP is also renegotiating emoluments for its members because such allegation 'has potentials of creating the wrong



ASUP President

impression about the emoluments of workers in Polytechnics and Colleges of Education, thereby undermining the ongoing renegotiation process between the FGN and Polytechnics'.

ASUP believes that 'the CVCNU has access to the salary structures of the different cadres of staff across the tertiary education landscape and therefore has no basis to indulge in needless extrapolation.

The agitation for wage review in the University system can indeed proceed creditably without such fallacious reference by parties, as such can only breed needless rivalry in the sector'.

ASUP WINS CASE AT INDUSTRIAL COURT

The National Industrial Court, Uyo Division has ruled in favour of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic (ASUP), in a suit instituted against the Union by



Mr. Jude Inyangeto, former Chapter, Chairman of the Union in Federal Polytechnic, Ukana, Akwa Ibom State.

In the judgement, the Presiding Judge, Justice M.A. Namtari said "the long and short of the matter is that the claimant has failed to prove his case and is hereby dismissed. I make no order as to cost".

The former Chairman had in December 2020, dragged the Union to the Court, challenging the legality of the takeover in retainerhip of Ukana Chapter by the National leadership of the Union, among other prayers.

The striking out of the case has put to rest the lingering tension among members of the Union in the Chapter.

AUCHI POLYTECHNIC CHAPTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Comrade Bamidele Osamudiamen has been elected as Chapter Chairman of ASUP, Auchi Polytechnic Chapter. The election which took place in Auchi recently under the supervision of the Zonal Coordinator, Comrade Precious Nwakodo saw the emergency of other officers who will oversee the activities of the Union in the Chapter for the next two years.

The Zonal Coordinator charged the new executives to remain committed to the welfare of their members and ensure the promotion of the activities of the union through peace-building mechanism and effective mobilization of members.

In his acceptance speech, the incoming Chapter Chairman, Comrade Osamudiamen said every hand must be on deck towards addressing the problems confronting members, and called on every stakeholder to play a role in lifting ASUP in Auchi Chapter, to enviable heights.



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 103RD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC),
HOSTED BY JIGAWA STATE POLYTECHNIC DUTSE ON THE 5TH AND 6TH OF JULY, 2022**

PREAMBLE

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) held her 103rd meeting at the Jigawa State Polytechnic Dutse, from the 5th to 6th of July, 2022.

The meeting had in attendance chairmen of various chapters of the union across the 36 states of the federation, as well as members of the Council of National Officers of the Union.

The NEC considered the following key items:

1. Status of the engagement between ASUP and the proprietors of public polytechnics and colleges of technology in Nigeria and the
2. State of affairs in Public Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology
3. State of the Nation

STATUS OF THE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN ASUP AND THE GOVERNMENT

The Union's NEC had declared a 2-weeks definite strike action from 16th to 31st of May 2022 to protest the lethargic disposition of government towards fulfilling some aspects of the 2021 Memorandum of Action (MoA) signed with the Union. Within the period of the industrial action, the following aspects of the MoA were satisfied: Payment of arrears of the new minimum wage owed members; Approval and release of 4 regulatory instruments by the National Board for Technical Education to facilitate standardization in the sector; Definite and verifiable steps taken to ensure the recall of victimized union officials in Institute of Management Technology Enugu; and Definite steps taken to ensure payment of salaries in Abia State Polytechnic, Aba.

The Union however, notes with discomfort the slow pace in addressing the following outstanding issues:

- a. Conclusion of the renegotiation process of the ASUP/FGN 2010 agreement;
- b. Withdrawal of the template for the appointment of principal officers as issued by the Federal Ministry of Education and its review
- c. Release of the approved N15Bn Revitalization fund for the sector;
- d. Release of the arrears of CONTISS 15 migration owed some members;
- e. Revision and release of the Scheme of Service for the sector.

The Union expressed its displeasure with the directorate in charge of the sector in the Federal Ministry of Education as some of the challenges listed above are traced to the actions and/or inactions of the directorate.

RESOLUTIONS:

- i. The Union condemned the snail speed in resolving the issues and tasked the government to ensure the conclusion of the ASUP/FGN 2010 agreement renegotiation process; and release of the approved revitalization fund of N15Bn latest by 31st of August, 2022. Same deadline applies to the collation of information from institutions as it affects payment of CONTISS 15 arrears.
- ii. The Union renews its demand for the immediate withdrawal of the contentious template for the appointment of principal officers as issued by the Federal Ministry of Education as well as its review in line with extant laws.
- iii. The meeting equally granted approval the ASUP chapter(s) in any institution(s) where the contentious template was/ will be deployed for the appointment of any of the principal officers to withdraw their services until the amended Polytechnic Act is adhered to in such process.

2. STATE OF AFFAIRS IN PUBLIC POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

The NEC reviewed reports and condemned the persistent shortfalls in

personnel releases by the Budget Office of the Federation to most of the Federal Polytechnics, leading to the non-remittances of deducted third party funds for 4 months. This has, and is still causing untold hardship to members in different campuses. The Union also condemns the non-payment of salaries in some state-owned institutions in Abia, Benue, Plateau, Ogun, Osun and Edo states. The Union further condemned the non-release of 55 months of pensions in Ogun state institutions; the non-release of promotion arrears in some Federal Polytechnics and most of the state-owned institutions as well as the purported ban on Union activities by the Edo State government.

RESOLUTIONS:

- i. The Budget Office of The Federation is requested to release ALL withheld third-party funds deducted from members' salaries and a resolution of the shortfalls issue.
- ii. The Union approved the commencement of indefinite industrial action by Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta over issues of trade dispute. Same approval is extended to any of the chapters in the states where emoluments are owed.
- iii. The Union demands the release of owed promotion arrears in different Federal and State-owned member institutions.
- iv. The Union resolved to explore legal options against the purported ban of Union activities by the Edo State government.

3. STATE OF THE NATION

The Union noted with great concern the hyper- inflation and gradual erosion in the value of the Naira as well as the escalating energy crisis in the country. This has in turn inflicted untold hardship on the people.

The Union in strong terms condemned the rising insecurity in the country, now wide spread across all the geopolitical zones including the Federal Capital.

On the political front, the Union applauds the new found enthusiasm by Nigerians to be part of the 2023 elections through the upsurge in registration for the Permanent Voters Cards. The Union however, frowns at reports of undue monetization of the electoral process at the party primaries of some of the political parties as well as reports of vote buying during the just concluded elections in Ekiti State. The Union decried the fact that the nation is about to witness its most expensive political process with the bulk of the funds deployed to undermine the credibility of same process; and considers such as a disservice by the political class particularly in the face of the severe economic challenges facing the nation and the deprivation faced by real sectors of the economy.

RESOLUTIONS:

- i. The Union requests the government to put in place social security measures to insulate Nigerians from the current hardship and volatility in the international commodity market. The Union also demands a sustainable resolution of the crisis in the energy sector.
- ii. The nation's electoral commission should invoke the law in stemming reports of commercialization of the Nation's electoral process irrespective of the errant political party/aspirant. The electoral commission should equally ensure that interested and eligible voters in the country are not denied the opportunity to participate in the electoral process.
- iii. Security agencies in the country should explore effective strategies to address the insecurity issues in the country as it has become a potent threat to the survival of the nation.

Abdullahi Yalwa
Publicity Secretary

Council of National Officers (CNO)



Anderson Ezeibe
President



Muhammad Gbate
Vice President



Shammah Sunday Kpanja
Secretary General



Usman Yusuf Dutse
Ex- Officio



Tonwei E. Thomson
Asst. Sec. Gen.



Dr. Chika N. Ogonwa
Financial Secretary



Dr. Sabi'u Ya'u Abdullahi
Treasurer



Masopa Adekunle
Internal Auditor



Abdullahi Yalwa
Publicity Secretary



Dr. Kasim I. Mohammed
Zone A Coordinator



Simji Innocent Lumpye
Zone B Coordinator



Yekini Nureni
Zone C Coordinator



Precious Nwakodo
Zone D Coordinator