



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 116TH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING HELD IN ABUJA, ON THURSDAY, 7TH MAY, 2026

PREAMBLE

The 116th meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) was held on the 7th of May, 2026 with Chapter Chairmen of the Union from various public Polytechnics, and Colleges of Technology across the country in attendance as well as members of the Council of National Officers (CN0) during the meeting held in Abuja. The NEC in session reviewed issues of concern to the nation and the tertiary level Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) education sub sector.

ISSUES

A. National Issues

1. Rising Cost of Living: NEC decried the rising cost of living occasioned by rising cost of food items, transportation of goods and services, and closure of businesses in the country. NEC notes with concern the rising levels of poverty in the country as the majority of citizens continue to live below the poverty line. NEC lamented the closure of businesses due to harsh operating climate and rising levels of unemployment in the country.

2. Insecurity: NEC expressed concerns on the continued reports of insecurity in the country. NEC pointed to the impact of insecurity on food security as well as the reported loss of lives of citizens and military and security personnel. NEC paid tribute to members of the nation's armed forces and other security personnel who continue to protect the nation even at the cost of the ultimate price.

3. 2027 General Elections: NEC noted the heightened tempo of political activities across the nation as the general elections draw closer. NEC encourages political actors to avoid destructive rhetorics and other acts capable of endangering the nation's democracy.

B. State of Tertiary Level TVET Education Sub Sector

1. **Conclusion of FGN/ASUP 2010 Renegotiation:** NEC exhaustively discussed the just concluded FGN/ASUP 2010 renegotiation process leading to the signing of an agreement. NEC observed with concern the delay in the activation of processes towards implementation of the signed agreement commencing with official communications to relevant stakeholders. NEC lamented that this has delayed implementation of the signed agreement till date.
2. **Delay in the Release of Allotted Funds for The Second Cycle of the Federal Government Needs Assessment Intervention:** NEC frowned at the unjustified delay in the release of allocation letters to beneficiary institutions for the second cycle (2023) Needs Assessment intervention. This is despite the conclusion of monitoring/evaluation activities for the first (2022) cycle and allocation processes. NEC pointed at the reports of racketeering and corrupt practices threatening the credibility of the intervention and facilitated by this delay.
3. **Bill for the Dual Mandate Structure for Polytechnics:** NEC commended the National Assembly for the work done so far on the Bill which will go a long way to addressing the existential challenges facing Polytechnics as well as the age long HND/B.Sc. Degree dichotomy. NEC praised the Bill, which has now progressed to the Senate for the conclusion of the legislative processes. The NEC reiterated the urgent need to conclude the process expeditiously and by so doing align our Polytechnics to globally accepted structure and standards.
4. **Continued Delay in the Release of the New Schemes of Service:** NEC expressed displeasure on the delay in the release of the new Schemes of Service and Conditions of Service even when it is believed that the grey areas have been resolved with the various stakeholders. NEC maintained that the continued delay of a legally recognized Schemes of Service in the system is not only injurious to the growth of the Polytechnic system but also affect in no small measure, the morale of members in delivering service effectively.
5. **Industrial Disharmony in some Polytechnics:** Reports of different degrees of crisis in various institutions were taken with emphasis on management intrusion in union affairs in **Federal Polytechnic, Nekede** where members are facing various

forms of intimidation and victimization; **Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo Ondo State** where activities of the Union was purportedly suspended as a result of Union agitations for better welfare; **Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State** where the Union and the Institution have been at crisis mode for several months; State owned institutions in Plateau and Borno states where members' welfare issues have been treated with levity leading to threats of declaration of trade dispute . NEC noted that the subsistence of these reports over time will ultimately undermine the peace and stability of the entire sector.

6. **Abysmal Performance in Scholarly Enterprise:** NEC expressed serious disappointment in the low turnout of scholars from the sector towards accessing grants for research and book publication activities. NEC particularly noted the poor performance of members in accessing grants from the National Research Fund (NRF) and Books publishing activities of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). NEC pointed at the need for scholars from the sector to step up and compete for these grants to enhance their (and sectoral) visibility by contributing to nation building.
7. **Non-Remittances of Third Party Deductions:** NEC decried reports of non-remittances of third party deductions particularly Pensions and Nation Housing Fund deductions. This has complicated smooth transition of retiring members to post service life. NEC noted that this has persisted despite the Union efforts including the convocation of a stakeholder engagement on pensions in the sector. NEC equally noted with concern the poor implementation of contributory pensions in institutions owned by the Benue State government as well as reports of non-existence of a pensions scheme for members in Enugu State Polytechnic

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. NEC encourages the government at both national and sub national levels to urgently take steps to alleviate the suffering of citizens. NEC demands that social safety nets be put in place to stem the wild increase in energy (petroleum products, gas and electricity) costs across the nation as same is the main driving force of poverty in the country at the present.
- B. NEC stands in solidarity with victims of the current spate of insecurity in the country including members of the armed forces and other security agencies who are at various

battle fronts. NEC demands a prioritization of the security of the nation and her citizens.

- C. NEC encourages the proper conduct of political players and institutions as the nation approaches the 2027 general elections. NEC demands that the rule of law should prevail on individuals/organizational conduct so as to ensure credible electoral process.
- D. NEC notes with appreciation the conclusion of the renegotiation process after several years. NEC equally demands the immediate activation of the implementation of the renegotiated and signed ASUP/FGN agreement through the release of relevant communications. NEC notes that the delay in the release of the relevant documents will ultimately impede the smooth implementation of the signed agreement.
- E. NEC also notes with appreciation the conclusion of the 2022 cycle of the Needs Assessment and availability of funds for the 2023 cycle. NEC demands the urgent release of allocation letters and funds to beneficiary institutions for the 2023 cycle of Needs Assessment Intervention. NEC encourages members to be vigilant and report fraudulent practices particularly with reports of fraudsters currently preying on some institutions. NEC equally encourages beneficiary institutions to ensure completion of all outstanding/abandoned projects related to the 2022 cycle before accessing the 2023 cycle. NEC equally prayed for the expansion of the intervention net to accommodate specialized institutions/Monotechnics.
- F. NEC applauded the efforts of the Federal House of Representatives towards the passage of the bill on the dual mandate and charged the Senate to expeditiously concur with the position of the House of Representatives to enable the signing of the Bill into law.
- G. NEC demands the release of the reviewed Schemes of Service without any further alterations. This is more so as the Governing Board of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) is now in place to handle such activities.
- H. NEC empowered the CNO to ensure a return to normalcy in institutions like Federal Polytechnic, Nekede and Federal Polytechnic, Offa through appropriate resolution of the crisis in both institutions and taking into cognizance the peculiarities in both places. CNO was equally empowered to resolve the issue in Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo as well as the trade dispute in Borno and Plateau state owned institutions.

- I. NEC directs Chapter leaders to embark on orientation activities to grow awareness on the need for scholarly enterprise including but not limited to accessing grants from the TETFund NRF and Book publishing. NEC equally demands a stoppage of all forms of racketeering/ fraudulent activities and weaponization of intervention lines of TETFund like the Institution Based Research (IBR); Conference Attendance (CA); Academic Staff Training and Development (AST&D) and activities of Centres of Excellence. CNO was empowered to ensure that there is strict compliance with required guidelines including setting up of relevant Committees at institutional levels for this purpose. CNO are equally encouraged to seek the expansion of the net for qualified universities as it affects AST&D. Chapters were directed to investigate and report cases of fraud in the utilization of TETFund intervention grants in institutions.
- J. NEC demands the immediate release of all outstanding third party remittances, particularly Pensions and National Housing Fund deductions. NEC noted that some institutions and IPPIS are culpable in different eras and should be made to do the needful without any further delay.
- K. NEC demands the release of the reviewed salary arrears (25/35%) of 2023 as well as promotion arrears owed different institutions. NEC demanded the implementation of same in many state-owned institutions.

CONCLUSION:

The resolutions reached at the 116th NEC meeting are targeted at ensuring a better nation. It is therefore expected that affected stakeholders should accord the items contained the desired attention as such remains critical to the growth of the nation, sustenance of industrial harmony in the sector, the development of the Polytechnic system and the development of our members.



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(National Publicity Secretary)