



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 114TH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING HELD IN ABUJA, ON THURSDAY 17TH JULY, 2025

PREAMBLE

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) was held on the 17th of July, 2025 with Chapter Chairmen of the Union from various public Polytechnics, and Colleges of Technology across the country in attendance during the meeting held in Abuja.

STATE OF THE NATION

- 1. Economic Hardship as a Result of Rising Inflation in the Country:** NEC observed with concern the general economic hardship in the country driven by inflationary trends on consumer goods, raw materials, and food items. NEC notes the implication of the dire economic situation in the country on fixed income earners and the generality of the citizenry as the purchasing power of the nation's currency is being eroded by inflation.
- 2. Persistent Security Challenges:** NEC observed that the security concerns in the country have not been addressed and calls on Government to fulfill its primary obligation of securing the lives and property of Nigerians.
- 3. Electoral Reforms:** NEC noted the need to reform the nations electoral laws and joined other well-meaning Nigerians/ organizations in this crusade to reform the nation's electoral processes. NEC believes that such reforms should lead to making the outcomes of elections in the country a proper reflection of the wishes of the electorate.
- 4. Constitution Amendment:** NEC noted the ongoing attempts to amend the 1999 constitution of the country. NEC tasked the National Assembly to ensure that the exercise is not another jamboree but programmed at solving the multifarious challenges plaguing the nation.

STATE OF POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION

1. Abysmally Low Cut Off Points for Candidates Seeking Admission into Polytechnics: NEC noted with displeasure the very low cut off marks set for candidates seeking admissions into the nation's polytechnics for 2025. NEC points to the unhealthy rivalry with the university system including private universities and the low appetite for polytechnic education as the main reasons for such low cut off marks.

2. Quest to Undermine the Polytechnic System Through the Conversion of Polytechnics to Universities: NEC condemned the recent disposition of the government to convert Polytechnics to Universities in different guises. NEC noted that this move is driven by mere political considerations as it adds little or no value to the development of the nation's education landscape while wiping away the rich history of the institutions and their contributions to national development over the years. NEC reaffirmed its conviction that the name of an institution is not as important as its output and encouraged the government to grant polytechnics the long overdue degree awarding status instead of the needless politically motivated conversions.

3. Outsourcing of Quality Assurance Responsibilities of the NBTE: NEC discussed extensively the recent policy of outsourcing the quality assurance responsibilities of the NBTE. NEC frowned at this development as it will end up commercializing the accreditation processes, undermining standards and also puts to question the need for the continued existence of the NBTE itself. NEC notes with dismay the quality of vendors approved for the exercise by the NBTE as same goes against the policy itself. NEC restated its position in demanding for a dedicated commission to regulate the sector as a sustainable solution to the inadequacies of NBTE.

4. Non-Release of Arrears of the 25/35% Salary Review, Promotion Arrears, and Wage Award Arrears: NEC condemned the non-release of the legitimate but hanging arrears of the identified emoluments as listed across the sector. NEC noted that this has led to low morale in work places.

5. Non-Remittances of Pension Deductions by Institutions: NEC condemned the non-remittances of the deductions for the contributory pensions since the migration to the GIFMIS payment platform. NEC pointed to the fact that this is preventing members from accessing portions of the retirement savings as captured in the pensions reform act (2014) and worsened the plight of retirees as well.

6. Non-Release of the Circular on Academic Allowances by the National Salaries Incomes and Wages Commission: NEC noted with disappointment the non-release of this important circular as it identified the continued negligence of the Federal Ministry of Education as the reason for this.

7. Sustained Delays in Payment of Monthly Salaries: NEC condemned the sustained delays in payment of salaries at the end of each month in recent times. NEC pointed to the negative implications of such delays on members and their families noting that it is impossible for members to fund their transportation to work when salaries are not paid.

8. Fractured Industrial Relations in Some Polytechnics: NEC received reports of the militarization of Federal Polytechnic Nekede in a bid to stop an ASUP Congress; the disruption of academic activities in Federal Polytechnic Ekowe as a result of reports of high-handedness of the institution's management leading to an industrial action by non-teaching staff unions; subtle moves to victimize ASUP officials in Federal Polytechnic, Offa despite restoration of peace on the campus by the COHEADS/COFER/ASUP Reconciliation Committee of the NBTE; non-conduct of Chapter Elections in Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic Aba; and alleged intimidation of Principal Officers and Unions in Delta State Polytechnic Ogwashiuku. NEC frowned at these developments noting its impact on service delivery in the affected institutions.

RESOLUTIONS

The NEC after Extensive and Exhaustive Deliberations Resolved as Follows:

1. The NEC endorsed the CNO's efforts to facilitate a sectoral engagement with the Honorable Minister of Education to exhaustively discuss all items threatening the sustenance of Polytechnic Education in the country. Key items identified include conversion of Polytechnics to Universities, dual mandate structure for Polytechnics, the establishment of a dedicated Commission for effective regulation of institutions in the sector, violation of extant laws in appointment of Principal Officers and general administration of Polytechnics etc.
2. NEC directed members in any member Chapter of the Union to withdraw services anytime salaries are not paid within 72 (seventy-two) hours into a new month and sustain same until salaries are paid.
3. NEC directed members to monitor and ensure the prompt remittance of pensions deductions at institutional levels while the CNO organizes a consultative forum to discuss the issues of pensions administration in the sector on a holistic basis.

4. NEC reaffirmed its opposition to the outsourcing of quality assurance activities by the NBTE and encouraged the CNO to deepen its engagement on the issue with a view to reporting back to NEC within three weeks from the end of the meeting.
5. NEC tasked the CNO to urgently address the issues in Federal Polytechnic, Nekede where non-members of the Union are freely deployed to undermine the lawful activities of the Union. Similarly, intervention was approved for Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic Aba, while members in Federal Polytechnic Ekowe were directed to stay away from work until the campus is safe for academic activities. The developments at Federal Polytechnic, Offa and Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashiuku are to be monitored as a resolution mechanism was already in place.
6. NEC resolved that CNO should sustain action aimed at releasing arrears of the 25/35% salary review, promotion arrears and release of circular on academic allowance.
7. The NEC acknowledged and commended the Governors of Abia and Edo States for the payment of outstanding salaries of 33 months and 6 months respectively owed to the staff of the institutions while encouraging other governors and even the federal government to also offset owed emoluments of staff as we'll as tackle the issue of outstanding promotions of the staff.

CONCLUSION:

The National Executive Council (NEC) view the decisions reached as critical to the sustenance of industrial harmony in the sector and the development of the country at large. It is therefore imperative that role players at all levels should give the resolutions reached the desired attention in the overall interest of the nation.



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