



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 113TH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING, HELD AT B'S HIVE HOTEL AND SUITES, GWARIMPA ABUJA, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2025

PREAMBLE:

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) held her 113th meeting at B's Hive Hotel and Suites, Gwarimpa Abuja on 17th April, 2025. The meeting had in attendance members of the Council of National Officers (CNO) of the Union, Chapter Chairmen and observers from public Polytechnics and Monotechnics across the country. The meeting reviewed and took resolutions on the issues bothering on the state of the nation, state of education in the country and the state of Polytechnic education.

A. STATE OF THE NATION

i. National Security

NEC noted with concern growing reports of killings in different parts of the country particularly the North Central and North East geopolitical zones of the country. NEC expressed displeasure at the perennial nature of these conflicts and the inability of the nation's ruling class to resolve these conflicts over the years and till date. NEC expressed her condolences to families who have been affected by the spate of killings across the country.

ii. National Economy

NEC noted that the nation's economy is still in dire straits with prices of common goods and services still beyond the purchasing power of most Nigerians. NEC expressed worries that the economic situation in the country is driving crime rate as many Nigerians are unable to cope with the economic situation in the country.

iii. Critical Infrastructure

NEC frowned at the worsening state of critical infrastructure particularly road infrastructure. NEC pointed at the urgent need for intervention as the poor state of inter state roads across the country has continued to endanger the lives of Nigerians and contributed to the high cost of food in the country.

B. STATE OF EDUCATION

- i. NEC appreciates the recent drive to promote transparency in the tertiary education sector through the ministerial directive for institutions to publish their financial profiles. This we believe will improve transparency in the management of scarce resources in the sector.
- ii. NEC expressed concerns with reports of sharp practices by institutions in the administration of the Student Loan Scheme driven by National Education Loan Fund (NELFUND). NEC pointed at the need for thorough investigations into the matter and sanctions for erring individuals /institutions.
- iii. NEC expressed displeasure at the decision of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) to restrict access to intervention under the Academic Staff Scholarship intervention to a few Universities. NEC is not convinced by the criteria deployed in selecting the Universities nor the rationale behind restricting the number of Universities to a few for each geopolitical zone.
- iv. NEC noted the decision to stop TETFUND interventions in Beneficiary Institutions with less than five hundred students. NEC notes that this is not strange as the Union had been decrying the penchant of establishing institutions for political gains as the low enrollment figures being recorded can be traced to poor siting considerations amongst other factors. NEC however points to the need for TETFUND to apply the 2:1:1 ratio of fund allocation to this policy also.

C. STATE OF POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION

i. Scheme of Service and Conditions of Service:

NEC took note of the report from the Union's representative and applauded the review process thus far. NEC condemned efforts by sister unions in the sector to blackmail the Union and endorsed the Union's posture of maintaining the globally recognized structure of tertiary education.

ii. Release of Circular on Peculiar Academic allowance:

NEC noted with displeasure the persistent delay by the National Salaries Incomes, and Wages Commission (NSIWC) despite the submissions of all relevant documents submitted by the Union. NEC raised alarm of a looming shortfall in salaries if the circular is not released.

iii. 25/35% Wage Adjustment Arrears:

It was observed that despite the assurances of the Honorable Minister of Education, arrears of the 25/35% salary adjustment covering 2023 is yet to be released. This is despite the passage of the budget. NEC noted that the arrears is however owed across the three tiers of tertiary education.

iv. Owed Promotion Arrears:

NEC frowned at the piecemeal approach in the release of owed promotion arrears in the sector. NEC equally pointed to the lackadaisical disposition of some managements of polytechnics in documenting the owed arrears leading to unnecessary delays.

v. Violations of Federal Polytechnics Act:

NEC noted the appeals and assurances from the Honorable Minister of Education on the issue of violations of the Act in the processes leading to the appointment of Rectors in Federal Polytechnics Nekede and Wannune. NEC also noted the release of the appointments in seven other polytechnics.

vi. Intrusion into Union Affairs:

NEC noted sustained reports of intrusion into internal affairs of the Union in Federal Polytechnic Nekede despite repeated directives to the contrary. NEC expressed displeasure with reports of attempts to undermine the smooth running of the Union in Federal Polytechnics Ekowe and Wannune.

vii. Condition of State Owned Institutions:

NEC condemned the deplorable state of institutions under state proprietorship as it affects infrastructure and staff welfare. NEC condemned disturbing reports of non implementation of the approved salary structure in most of the state owned institutions.

viii. Outsourcing of Regulatory Duties of NBTE:

NEC endorsed the Union's reservations to the move to outsource NBTE's regulatory duties, noting that same will result to commercialization of accreditation processes. NEC noted the fact that issue is already before the Federal Ministry of Education.

ix. Needs Assessment Intervention:

NEC noted the assurances of the Honorable Minister of Education in relation to the release of funds for the second round of intervention under NEEDS ASSESSMENT as same is also captured in the budget.

x. Union Check off deductions and The Position of COFER:

The Union received with reservations the recent decision /request of COFER on the issue of Union check off deductions and the provisions of the Trade Unions Act and views same as a direct confrontation with the Union. ASUP is shocked that such an issue could constitute an item of discussion for a body like COFER while numerous issues of challenge to the sector remain unresolved. The Union equally noted that similar bodies of Chief Executives in the University system and Colleges of Education cannot descend to such levels of undermining partners like the Trade Unions in the sector.

RESOLUTIONS

Following the discussions on the above items, NEC resolved as follows:

1. That the National leadership of the Union should intensify its engagement with the government on the issues contained in the signed Memorandum of Understanding of December, 2024 and the follow up meeting with the Honorable Minister of Education of March 13, 2025. The key items of engagement include: Respect for the provisions of the Federal Polytechnics Act; Release of arrears of the 25/35% salary adjustment; Release of circular on Peculiar Earned Academic Allowance; Release of promotion arrears in affected Institutions; implementation of the appropriate salary structure including the 25/35% increase in state owned institutions; Intrusion into Union affairs by Rector of Federal Polytechnic Nekede; Release of second round of Needs Assessment Intervention and outsourcing of the regulatory responsibilities of the NBTE.

2. The National Leadership of the Union should engage with the NBTE and other stakeholders in ensuring that the current efforts at amending the Federal Polytechnics Act and the Scheme of Service becomes a reality.
3. The National Leadership of the Union should ensure that the FME/ASUP Rapid Response Committee is convened without delay to bring to a closure the issue of CONTISS 15 migration and other items of interest to the sector.
4. The Union shall resist the recent move by a few Rectors to undermine the Union hiding under the auspices of COFER and Trade Union check off deductions. The Union shall explore all options in this regard while urging COFER to direct its energy to tangible issues of concern to the sector.

CONCLUSION:

The NEC views 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Comrade Itoro E. Ekanemesang
(National Publicity Secretary)