



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

28th November, 2024

TEXT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE DELIVERED AT THE END OF THE 112TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP) ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024 IN ABUJA

Gentlemen of the Press,

Our Union's National Executive Council (NEC) held its 112th session to review the current status of our engagements with proprietors of Public Polytechnics, Colleges of Technology and Monotechnics in the country.

Members of the press may recall that the defining resolutions of our Union's 111th NEC was the issuance of a 15 days ultimatum to the government to address issues threatening the progress of the sector or face a withdrawal of services by our members nationwide. The issues listed by our Union include:

1. Sustained reports of impunity and disrespect of clear provisions of the Federal Polytechnics Act, different edicts establishing state owned institutions, and other instruments of governance in the sector particularly as it affects appointment of Principal Officers in Federal and State-Owned Polytechnics as well as other items of governance in Polytechnics. The sordid display of the Governing Council of the Federal Polytechnic Nekede in the appointment process of a new Rector, and the appointment of a Rector in Federal Polytechnic Wannune without following due process were cited as recent examples of these breaches.
2. Non-review of the contentious and suspended document titled Schemes of Service for Polytechnics.
3. Non-release of the NEEDS Assessment intervention funds for 2023

4. Intrusion of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) into the regular functions of the Academic Boards of Polytechnics in the admission of Higher National Diploma students in the Nigerian Polytechnic System.
5. Non capturing of the peculiar academic allowance of members for sustained payment in the planned post IPPIS era.
6. Refusal of most state-owned Polytechnics to implement the 35/25% salary review for members and non release of the arrears of same in Federal Polytechnics.
7. Non-release/resolution of the owed CONTISS 15 Migration arrears to members in the lower cadre
8. Non-conclusion of the ASUP/FG 2010 agreement renegotiation process.
9. Non-release of promotion arrears in both federal and state-owned institutions

Following the ultimatum, the Union was invited to meet with the Federal Ministry of Education and other critical stakeholders in the sector on the 23rd of October where an action plan was developed to address the issues in contention within specific timelines. On this basis, the Union deferred its industrial action for a period of one month to assess the seriousness of government in executing the work plan.

Unfortunately, as at today, we can only attest to the resolution of item number 4 while item number 2 is ongoing. No tangible effort is being made to resolve the other items.

To worsen the situation, the beneficiary of the fundamentally flawed Rectorship appointment process in Federal Polytechnic Nekede is currently on a mission to destroy the union in the institution. This we understand to be a reaction to the Union's principled and understandable preference for a due process led appointment in the institution and sector at large. Working in close collaboration with some renegades who are appointees in the administration, there is an unwholesome intrusion into the internal affairs of the union, seizure of Union property, stoppage of union deductions, as well as hounding and intimidation of elected union officials. These actions and more reflect a new order of tyranny which is unacceptable to our union and in definite contravention of extant provisions of the Trade Unions Act and our union's constitution thus adding to the list of our Union's reservations. The illegal appointment of a Rector for Federal Polytechnic, Wannune has not been addressed despite our Union's demand. Also, the appointment of

Rectors in the following institutions, Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu, Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa and Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Bonny have not been released even though the processes have since been concluded.

Following these developments and a thorough review by our Union's 112th NEC meeting, the union resolved to withdraw the services of its members nationwide with effect from December 2nd, 2024 on a two weeks definite strike action in the first instance.

This shall serve as a warning to the government to resolve the issues listed or be held responsible for an indefinite action going forward.

We therefore seek the understanding and support of members of the public as we are forced to yet again battle for the soul of Nigeria's Polytechnic System in this form. We equally hope that the government will work to meet the demands of the union which is to engender a healthy teaching and learning environment in the system so as to avoid an indefinite shutdown of the sector.

Zones and chapters of the Union are to ensure productive execution of the resolution of the 112th meeting of the NEC of our Union as is the tradition of the union with the usual complimentary activities.



Shammah S. Kpanja
(President)