



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 109TH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING, HELD AT HALL 1, VETERINARY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA, HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA, ON THURSDAY 4TH APRIL, 2024

PREAMBLE:

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) held its 109th Regular Meeting at Hall 1, Veterinary Council of Nigeria Headquarters in Abuja on 4th April, 2024. The meeting had in attendance Chapter Chairmen of member institutions across the Federation comprising of Federal and State Polytechnics and Monotechnics; and members of The Council of National Officers (CNO) of the Union. The meeting deliberated and took the following resolutions on the issues bordering the state of the nation; state of education in the country; and state of polytechnic education.

STATE OF THE NATION

1. **Security Challenges:** NEC observed with dismay the growing security challenges in the country and its adverse implications on different aspects of national life. NEC took special note of the killing of soldiers in Delta State, the growing cases of mass kidnapping of school children and the persistent reports of banditry in different parts of the country.
2. **Electricity Tariff Increase:** NEC received reports of the 300% hike in electricity tariff in the Band A of the nation's electricity distribution network by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) with reservations considering the consequences on the nation's economy at this time.
3. **Rising Inflation:** NEC observed with concern the general economic hardship in the country driven by roof-high 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 who and the generality of the citizenry as the purchasing power of the nation's currency is being eroded by inflation.
4. **Ban on Foreign Trips by Government Officials:** NEC appreciated the recent announcement of a three month ban on foreign travels by federal government

officials. NEC however demands to see more of such cost cutting measures in public expenditure and an elimination of opulence by the political class in the midst of the hunger in the land.

STATE OF EDUCATION

1. **Repeal and Reenactment of the Students' Loan Bill:** NEC frowned at the processes leading to the repeal and reenactment of the students' loan bill as the process was exclusive of critical stakeholder groups in the nation's education sector. NEC noted that this is a repeat of same process that led to challenges in the repealed Act and is worried that the exclusion of stakeholder groups throughout the lawmaking process is undemocratic and thus unacceptable.
2. **Brewing Crisis in the University System:** NEC noted with concern the brewing industrial crisis in the university system due to the non-release of withheld salaries of members of SSANU, NASU and NAAT; and the release of only 4 months of withheld salaries to members of ASUU. NEC maintains the position that government should release all withheld salaries of university staff in the country.
3. **Review of TETFund Interventions:** NEC appreciated the undeniable impact of TETFund interventions in the nation's tertiary education landscape. NEC further noted that certain aspects of the intervention like the Academic Staff Training and Development for scholars in Nigerian institutions should be reviewed in line with economic realities. NEC equally notes that same should be extended to conference attendance and research intervention lines. NEC further pointed at the need to create intervention lines to cater for special needs of other public tertiary institutions currently excluded from the list of beneficiary institutions. NEC condemned the reports of abscondment of scholars and other sharp practices by beneficiaries of Tetfund interventions.
4. **Campus Security:** NEC noted growing reports of security breaches in the nation's education institutions with serious concern. NEC condemned in strong terms reports of kidnappings of school children and invasion of campuses by criminal elements.

STATE OF POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION

1. **Illegal Campuses and Unapproved Programmes:** NEC observed with concern the proliferation of illegal polytechnics and monotronics campuses across the country and pledged to collaborate with relevant authorities to arrest the situation which is currently ridiculing the sector.

2. **Migration from IPPIS:** NEC renewed its concerns over the pronouncement of the Federal Executive Council on migration from IPPIS without any clarity on associated issues like withheld third party deductions and personnel budget deficits in the sector.
3. **25/35% Salary increase:** NEC has welcomed the implementation of 25/35% salary increment for Federal Polytechnics but condemned the non-implementation of same in state owned institutions.
4. **Promotion Arrears:** NEC also condemned the delay in the release of promotion arrears in some federal and state polytechnics and monotechnics which has accumulated over the years ranging from 2018 to date.
5. **NEEDS Assessment Monitoring:** NEC was not impressed that months after the disbursement of the first trench of the needs assessment intervention fund to public polytechnics, some of the polytechnics are yet to utilize the funds.
6. **Rapid Response Team Meeting:** NEC condemned the inactiveness of the FME/ASUP Rapid Response committee where several issues like CONTISS 15 migration for the lower cadre, review of the scheme of service and other issues of industrial dispute are to be handled.
7. **National Polytechnics Commission (NPC):** NEC commended the Federal House of Representatives for the passage of the second reading of the bill for the establishment having been captured in the FME 2024-2027 Roadmap for the education sector.
8. **Academic Staffing in Polytechnics:** NEC observed with concern the depletion of Academic Staff in both Federal and State Polytechnics which has adversely affected teaching and learning activities in the sector.
9. **Constitution of Governing Councils:** NEC condemned the hasty dissolution and non-reconstitution of Governing Councils in federal and some state Polytechnics which has contributed to chaos in the leadership of some polytechnics, delay in appointment of Principal Officers, Recruitment and Promotion of Staff etc.
10. **Agricultural Development Fund (ADF):** NEC frowned at the current practice where funds from the ADF are not made accessible to the institutions concerned.

RESOLUTIONS

The NEC After Extensive and Exhaustive Deliberations Resolved as Follows:

1. Government at all levels should urgently arrest the growing insecurity in the country and bring perpetrators to book.
2. The National Electricity Regulatory Commission should reverse the new increase in electricity tariff in the interest of the nation's fragile economy
3. Government at national and subnational levels should adopt and implement policies aimed at cushioning the rising inflation in the country including the implementation of new salary structures commensurate with current economic realities across board.
4. The Federal Government should release without further delay all withheld salaries in the university system as our Union renews its with solidarity with the struggle of ASUU, SSANU, NASU, NAAT on the issue.
5. Government at all levels should ensure adequate security of educational institutions to stem the tide of invasion of institutions by criminal elements.
6. TETFund should expeditiously review the content of some of its intervention lines in view of economic realities while exploring ways of expanding intervention to other public tertiary institutions.
7. NBTE to operationalize its strategy with ASUP to root out illegal polytechnics and monotechnics in the country.
8. ASUP renews its stand on exit from the IPPIS payment platform until shortcomings in the budget and issues of withheld third party deductions are resolved.
9. State governments should commence the implementation of the 25/35% salary review on CONPCASS without any further delay. The Federal Government and States should equally process the accrued arrears from January 2023 for payment to deserving staff.
10. The Federal Government should release funds to for the payment of arrears of promotion in the sector. State governments should implement and similarly pay up their own arrears of promotion in the interest of industrial harmony.
11. NEC demands the reconvening of the FME/ASUP Rapid Response Committee by the FME as a matter of urgency to handle issues of

- concern in the sector including CONTISS 15 migration issues, Scheme of Service etc. This move shall sustain industrial harmony in the sector.
12. TETFUND should keep to its words and ensure implementation of the directives for monitoring committees to be set up for its intervention lines.
 13. NEC appealed for the support of stakeholders in the sector on the imminent public hearing stage of the Bill for the establishment of a dedicated commission for Polytechnics and extend same to the rest of the process. Same support from stakeholders is equally solicited in the struggle for the commencement of dual mandate structure for Polytechnics as contained in the FME roadmap 2014 -2017.
 14. The Federal Government should reconstitute without any further delay the governing councils of all Federal Polytechnics to stem the growing tide of chaos in the institutions. Same applies to states where polytechnics do not have governing councils.
 15. The NBTE should act to defend the sector from the embarrassment of appointment of unqualified persons as rectors particularly in state owned institutions. NBTE should invoke regulatory instruments against such institutions and also ensure adequate staffing and proper placement of staff of Polytechnics.
 16. The Agricultural Development Fund should be made accessible to related institutions without any further delay as this will enable such institutions deliver on their mandates.

CONCLUSION

The Union's 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.



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