



ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF POLYTECHNICS (ASUP)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 108TH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING, HELD AT PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE, DUTSE, ABUJA, ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 2023.

PREAMBLE:

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) held its 108th regular Meeting at Public Service Institute of Nigeria (PSIN) in Abuja on 11th October, 2023. The meeting had in attendance Chapter Chairmen of member institutions across the Federation and the Council of National Officers (CNO) of the Union.

The meeting deliberated and made resolutions on the following issues:

- 1) STATE OF THE UNION AND POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION.
- 2) STATE OF THE NATION.

STATE OF THE UNION AND THE POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION

a) Dissolution of Governing Councils of the Federal Polytechnics

NEC viewed the abrupt dissolution of tenured Governing Councils of Federal Polytechnics as a negation of the 2019 Federal Polytechnics Act (as amended). The said dissolution is currently impacting negatively on the smooth running of the institutions as process for appointment of Principal Officers, staff promotions etc. cannot be completed without the Councils.

b) Non-Payment of Salary in some States owned Polytechnics

NEC reviewed with great concern the poor attitude of some state Governments which is adversely impacting on the livelihoods of staff of Polytechnics and Monotechnics in the affected states. NEC particularly condemned the inhuman salary situation in Abia State Polytechnic Aba, Rufus Giwa Polytechnic Owo, and Moshood Abiola Polytechnic Abeokuta. NEC further condemned similar situations at the institutions owned by the Plateau, Osun, Benue, Ondo, Sokoto and Edo State governments, where staff are owed backlogs of salaries and third-party deductions.

NEC noted with utmost concern the decision of the Plateau state Government to suspend the appointment of new staff at the tertiary institutions of the state. NEC called on the Government to be fair and just to the tertiary institutions in the proposed review of the employment process without further delay.

c) Wage Award

The wage award of 35% and 25% for Chief Lecturers and other cadres of staff in the Polytechnics respectively by the Federal Government is a welcome idea but does not reflect the demands for current economic reality and our Union's expectation owing to the discontinuation of the FGN/ASUP 2010 agreement renegotiation.

(2) STATE OF THE NATION

Fuel Subsidy Removal & Palliatives by the Government

NEC noted with dismay the poor handling of palliatives promised by the governments to cushion the negative effect of fuel subsidy removal.

The palliative initiative is been abused by the political class and people in government. Despite the Five billion given to each of the 36 state governors, majority of the people have not seen the benefit of the initiative, while the price of petrol and other commodities are continuously skyrocketing.

RESOLUTIONS

The NEC after extensive deliberations resolves as follows:

- i. The abrupt dissolution of the tenured Governing Councils of Federal Polytechnics by the FGN is illegal, negatively affecting the administration and smooth running of the Institutions. NEC therefore calls on the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to re-constitute the governing councils and desist from similar action and such other violation of the laws governing the sector.
- ii. NEC strongly demands that the January 2023 effective date of the 35% and 25% wage awards, should be implemented with October 2023 salaries.
- iii. NEC resolved that the Federal Government should address the funding and infrastructure gaps in education, health, transportation, and agriculture sectors as well as renegotiation of subsisting wage structures as direct interventions from removal of fuel subsidy rather than the proposed cash transfer policy which will be difficult to audit and therefore fraud prone.

- iv. NEC requested for immediate reconvening of the FGN/ASUP 2010 renegotiations to resolve the issue of sustainable funding of the sector, post service condition of our members, appropriate certifications of the polytechnic products among others contained in the submitted Union`s charter of demand.
- v. ASUP called on the FGN to fix without delay, the critical infrastructure needs in the country, starting with refineries, electricity, roads and the railway lines as a sure means to improve the living conditions of Nigerians.
- vi. Government should improve funding for the Polytechnics subsector as a sure means to the technological advancement of the country and in line with global best practices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abdullahi Yalwa', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

***Comrade Abdullahi Yalwa,
(National Publicity Secretary)***