



SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION

Of

NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

(SSANU)

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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 42ND REGULAR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING/WORKSHOP OF THE SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (SSANU) HELD ON MONDAY 12TH - THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 2022 AT UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE

PREAMBLE

The 42nd National Executive Council meeting of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities started with a two-day workshop for newly elected branch Executive Committee members and all Women Coordinators across the nation. This workshop is in line with the mission and vision of the National leadership of the Union to entrench and institutionalize due process in a bid to sustain the core values of the Union at all levels. In addition, health and wellness enlightenment essentially formed part of the seminar.

In order to effectively handle the overriding topic of the seminar captioned "Leveraging on the past to build a virile and formidable Union", seasoned technocrats, administrators par excellence and legendary past SSANU Leaders were invited as resource persons. Among these iconic paper presenters are the immediate past President of SSANU, Comrade Samson C. Ugwoke, His Royal

Vice President (North-Central):- Niyongo Emmanuel Andover **Vice President (North-East):-** Alhaji Audu Isah **Vice President (North-West):-** Abdulmalik N. B. Yunusa
Vice President (South-East):- Kenneth Njoku **Vice President (South-South):-** Azumah Cheta Ugochukwu **Vice President (West):-** Abdussobur Olawiyola Salaam
National Treasurer:- Emmanuel Egwu Item **National Financial Secretary:-** Akanbi Muhammed Jimoh **National PRO:-** Ja'afar Hamid Bage **National Trustee:-** Dr. Ekanem A. Ekanem
National Internal Auditor:- Aliyu Alhaji Adamu **National Ex-Officio:-** Egberongbe Taiwo Tijani **National Women Leader:-** Agnes Adanna Nti
National Legal Adviser:- **General Secretary:-**

Majesty Timothy T. Ahile, the Ter Kwande of Benue State and Comrade Alfanla Adeleke who were past National Financial Secretary and National Treasurer respectively. Also on this noble list is Dr. Leku Ador, the Deputy National President and Dr. Muttaqa Yushau, the Director of Education, Nigeria Labour Congress.

RESOLUTION OF NEC ON CRITICAL UNION AND NATIONAL ISSUES.

1. NON-INCLUSION / INVITATION OF SSANU TO THE RECENT EDUCATION SUMMIT ORGANISED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER, FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE.

The National Executive Council (NEC) in session observes with serious concern the ill-advised decision of the Speaker of the Federal House of Representative on its refusal to invite SSANU, a distinguished Union and undeniably major and critical stakeholder in the University system to the recently held Education Summit organized by the Office of the Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives. This action is not only disrespectful; it is a recipe for instability in the University system. Consequently, NEC resolved that the resolutions reached at that Summit are a nullity and stands rejected by SSANU since there was no input from her.

(2). RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE 2009 FGN/SSANU AGREEMENT

NEC in session is deeply peeved by the nonchalant and detached attitude of the Federal Government towards the long standing issue of renegotiating the 2009 Agreement. Renegotiation of the Agreement is overdue by 12 years. This is against the statutory

three (3) years agreed for periodic review. It is most disheartening and appalling the way Federal Government is handling the issue. We are seriously disturbed by Government's reluctance, despite SSANU's readiness in ensuring that this matter is urgently concluded. Since the Prof. Nimi D. Brigg's Committee was constituted, SSANU has earnestly offered itself for the renegotiation process. NEC therefore, demands the immediate resumption and conclusion of this exercise without any further delay as the content of the current Agreement has been eroded by the harsh economic situation occasioned by hyperinflation and its effect on workers.

(3). THE NAGGING ISSUE OF IPPIS

The plethora of problems associated with the IPPIS payment platform has left many SSANU members devastated because of the recurrent disturbing haphazard salary payment, leaving many with inexplicable wages as monthly salaries. The quest for solution to these problems have remained elusive and difficult, while Federal Government has remained adamant in insisting that it would use only IPPIS in payment of staff salaries. It is on record that the payment platform is fraught with the same corruption that Federal Government claims it wants to fight. It is also on record that the platform developed by JAC of SSANU and NASU (U3PS) is capable of addressing the issues we regularly complain of. NEC in session therefore urges the Federal Government to utilize the U3PS platform since IPPIS has continually failed to address the payment issues of university workers.

(4). PAYMENT OF NEW MINIMUM WAGE ARREARS

NEC in session discovered with shock that some of her members were yet to be paid arrears of the new national minimum wage. NEC noted that her members in the following Universities have either not been paid or are yet to be fully paid.

1. Federal University Otuoke
2. Micheal Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike
3. Federal University, Dutsima
4. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi
5. Federal University, Gashua, Yobe
6. Federal University Kashere
7. University of Maiduguri
8. Modibo Adama University, Yola
6. University of Benin, Benin.

NEC therefore, urges Government to immediately conclude the payment of the arrears to her members in the aforementioned Universities.

(5). USURPATION OF COUNCIL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.

NEC in session noted with dismay the ugly emerging trend of incursion and seizing of the powers and functions of the University Governing Councils by some agencies and offices of government. Statutorily, Council is the highest and final decision making organ in any University. It has been observed with grave concern that

some overzealous Government agents are trying to truncate this process. For example, we now hear of circulars from the Office of the Head of Service (HOS) of the Federation, directing universities on how, when and the number of persons that should be promoted at any given time. It should be noted that at no time has the Head of Service been part of the promotion of staff of universities. Personnel decisions in the university system end with the Governing Councils, where a representative of the Federal Ministry of Education is also a member. NEC resolved that Councils of universities do their work devoid of interference by the Office of the HOS or any other agent for that matter. NEC clearly says no to the usurpation of the powers of Council in relation to the promotion of our members in universities and Inter-University Centres.

(6) PAYMENT OF WITHHELD FOUR MONTHS SALARY ARREARS DURING NATIONWIDE STRIKE

NEC in session describes the action of FGN on the withheld four Month salary arrears during the nationwide strike embarked by the Union as insensitive and inconsiderate. It would be recalled that SSANU complied with all industrial legal protocol before embarking on strike when Government reneged on its part of the bargain. It becomes totally amusing and distasteful that Government could, inspite of the glaring legal compliance by SSANU on this industrial action, still proceed to withhold salaries of her members, whereas other institutions of higher learning that did not in any way comply with extant legal procedures before embarking on strike, still receive their salaries till date. NEC therefore views Government posture and

position as unimaginably unfortunate. It therefore calls to urgently pay the said arrears in one installment without further delay.

In the same vein, NEC earnestly urges Government to release the three month withheld third party deductions to affected Federal Universities. This becomes imperative as the delay is causing serious upsets and breaches to financial organizations in affected Universities.

(7) RELEASE OF ₦50 BILLION FOR PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING EARNED ALLOWANCES

NEC in session deliberated on the promise of Government to release the sum of Fifty Billion Naira (₦50b) for payment of outstanding Earned Allowances to University and Inter-University based unions. We urge government to keep to their word and not go their normal way of renegeing on their promises to avoid industrial dispute in the system.

NEC also urges Government to include our members working in University Health Centres in payment of the new Hazard Allowance like their counterparts in other health organizations.

(8) HIKE IN PUMP PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

NEC in session feels seriously agitated by unwarranted increase in the pump price and deliberate hoarding of the petroleum products. This avoidable situation has plunged innocent poor Nigerians into precarious economic situation, further increasing their hopelessness and frustration fuelled by economic hardship. NEC therefore demands the urgent reversal of the pump price to the old

price of ₦180 at least to reduce the biting impact, especially during this yuletide season.

(9). INSECURITY

NEC in session while deliberating on the state of insecurity in the country, notes that though Government has made gainful strides on this matter, insecurity is still of grave concern nationwide, especially constant reports about kidnapping for ransom and endless killings by unknown gunmen and terrorist attacks by bandits and Boko haram criminals. NEC therefore urges Government to do more in this regard as the effect of terrorism is incalculable, which has crippled social and economic activities nationwide.

(10). DEPLORABLE STATE OF NIGERIAN ROADS.

It is no longer news that most Federal, state and feeder roads are in deplorable state, creating serious difficulties and threats to transportation of goods, persons and services to different parts of the country. The story is same everywhere and these failed portions are veritable locations for kidnappers. In addition, bad roads have caused inestimable loss of money, quality time and perishable goods. Government at all levels is urged to earnestly fix these roads now that it is dry season before the rains set in.

(11). INFLATION AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

NEC in session observes with serious concern the inflationary trend in our Nation where the purchasing power of the Naira has been drastically reduced so much that every good in the market has been taken over by galloping inflation leaving many Nigerians groaning in

abject poverty. NEC therefore calls on Government to re-gig its economic policies with a view to checking this hyperinflation to allow the poor and low income earners survive this untold hardship.

(12). 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

NEC in session critically analyzed the political atmosphere and the attendant turbulent and violent-prone campaigns which is capable of truncating the democratic gains of the Nation. NEC therefore urges all stakeholders in the political space to observe the rules of by the game to engender free, fair and credible elections that will usher in smooth transition.

In conclusion, NEC calls on the federal government to ensure that all our demands are resolved within the shortest possible time.



Comrade Mohammed Haruna Ibrahim, *fnipr*
National President.