



**Issued at the Conclusion of the 52nd National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting of the
Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)
Held at Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri
September 2025**

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the **Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)** held its 52nd meeting at Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri, from 23 to 24 September 2025. After extensive deliberations on national issues and the welfare of its members, the Council issues the following communiqué:

1. State of the Nation

NEC expresses deep concern over the deteriorating condition of critical sectors. Healthcare remains underfunded, with outdated infrastructure and recurring epidemics such as the recent cholera outbreak in Zamfara State and other parts of the country. Widespread insecurity including kidnappings, banditry, and communal clashes continues to disrupt daily life, displace families, and cripple economic activity. Agriculture and food security are under severe threat, with an estimated 30.6 million Nigerians facing acute food shortages due to conflict, climate shocks, and economic instability.

2. Infrastructure and Public Services

NEC notes with alarm the poor state of national infrastructure, including the recent Abuja-Kaduna train derailment, and calls for urgent improvements in maintenance culture, preventive surveillance, and protection of multimillion-dollar public investments. Roads remain poorly maintained, power supply unreliable, and flood disasters such as the devastation in Yola South (Adamawa State) and parts of Niger and Lagos States expose the fragility of transport and water systems.

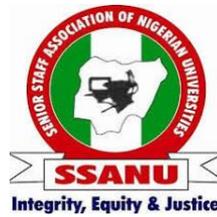
3. Education

NEC observes that Nigeria's education sector, from primary to tertiary levels, suffers from inadequate funding and outdated facilities. The Council calls for modernization of learning environments, stronger support for technical and vocational training, and equitable development of both teaching and non-teaching staff through fair remuneration and continuous professional development.

While commending the Federal Government for halting the unchecked establishment of new public universities, NEC insists that the government must urgently meet and implement the UNESCO benchmark for education budget allocation to strengthen quality and access.

4. Economy

NEC is concerned about the unstable Naira, rising inflation, and escalating prices of fuel and essential commodities. The Council urges government to adopt prudent fiscal and monetary policies, strengthen supply chains, and implement targeted relief to protect vulnerable households without distorting markets.



5. Key Resolutions on Members' Welfare and University Operations

- Pension Remittances: NEC condemns the non-remittance of pension deductions from members' salaries to their Pension Fund Administrators and demands immediate reconciliation and full payment to safeguard members' retirement benefits.
- Electricity Supply: NEC decries the epileptic power supply that undermines university operations and staff productivity. While appreciating the Federal Government's initial installation of solar farms in some universities, NEC calls for an urgent nationwide expansion of solar power plant provision to all public universities, inter-university centres, and research institutes.
- State Universities' Salaries: NEC strongly condemns the deliberate non-payment of salaries to SSANU members in some state universities and demands an immediate end to this unacceptable practice.
- Resource Allocation: NEC notes that Federal and State Governments now receive higher monthly allocations than in the previous administration and therefore have no excuse for failing to prioritize workers' welfare. The NEC in session demands that a reasonable percentage of these resources be directed to the health and education sectors to improve working conditions and service delivery.

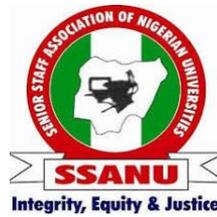
6. Policy Suggestions and Urgent Needs

To reposition Nigeria's universities for excellence and long-term sustainability, NEC in session urges the Federal and State Governments to grant full autonomy to university governing councils to reduce political interference and enable decisions that best serve the staff and students of the universities; establish dedicated research and innovation funds accessible to all disciplines to ensure consistent support for groundbreaking studies and technological development; and provide a living wage with guaranteed, timely salary payments to attract, motivate, and retain top talent among both teaching and non-teaching staff. These actions are not optional reforms but urgent requirements if Nigeria's universities are to compete globally and deliver the high-quality education essential for national economic and social progress.

7. Secure the Nation and Empower Traditional Rulers

NEC recommends and urges the government to recognize that the critical pillar for well-coordinated action against Nigeria's security crisis is the formal recognition and active involvement of traditional rulers. These leaders, closest to the grassroots, possess local knowledge, influence, and moral authority that modern security structures often lack. Granting them a defined role in policy formulation and community security management will strengthen intelligence gathering, improve early-warning systems, and foster community trust in law enforcement. Integrating traditional rulers into national and state security councils is not a ceremonial gesture; it is an urgent, practical step toward restoring public confidence and achieving lasting peace across the federation.

NEC also urges the Federal Government to declare targeted security emergencies in the worst-affected states and deploy well-trained forces under a unified national strategy. This effort must combine modern technologies, real-time intelligence gathering, and effective community policing with long-term measures to address the root causes of violence, including poverty, youth unemployment, and unresolved land-use conflicts.



8. Recommendations to Government

NEC in session further calls on the Federal and State Governments to increase budgetary allocations to health and education, and to ensure that all funds are fully and transparently disbursed; strengthen primary healthcare systems while improving working conditions to curb the brain drain of professionals; declare targeted security emergencies in high-risk states with the deployment of modern technology, intelligence gathering, and community policing, while addressing root causes such as poverty, youth unemployment, and land-use conflicts; support farmers through access to inputs, credit, storage, and irrigation to safeguard food security and stabilize prices; and prioritize infrastructure development by maintaining roads, ensuring reliable electricity, providing safe water, and implementing effective flood-control measures.

9. SSANU's Role in Nation Building

NEC reiterates that SSANU is not merely an advocacy group but a reservoir of professional expertise. Its members include engineers, architects, ICT specialists, healthcare professionals, season administrators, analysts, chartered accountants, public relation officers, and procurement experts who are ready to partner with government and development agencies to drive infrastructure renewal, enhance public services, and promote economic stability across the country.

8. Closing Appeal

NEC calls on all tiers of government to act with urgency and sincerity, noting that Nigerians deserve concrete action, not promises. The Council urges SSANU members to remain steadfast in professionalism, integrity, and constructive engagement while continuing to advocate for a safer and more prosperous Nigeria.

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