



Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 41ST NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING OF THE SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (SSANU) HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH-FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY, 2022 AT THE OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU) ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE.

The National Executive Council (NEC) in session deliberated seriously on some critical issues specifically affecting labour unions, tertiary institutions and state of the nation in general.

UNENDING DECEPTIONS AND RELENTLESS BREACH OF AGREEMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA.

NEC in session seriously frowns at the endless insincerity and double-dealings of the Federal Government over agreements and memoranda of understanding seamlessly signed with labour unions. NEC recalls the several assurances of Government to pay the agreed arrears of the new National Minimum Wage. Unfortunately, this promise is yet to be met after countless months; the last promise being end of October, 2021. Government is enjoined to see to it that

they keep to the promise of payment of the arrears of the New National Minimum Wage, which has already lost its value as at today. The Union is aware that Government has requested the relevant offices of Government to submit their data on or before the 28th of January 2022, we urge Government to ensure that they pay the overdue arrears of the National Minimum Wage on or before the end of February, 2022.

PAYMENT OF EARNED ALLOWANCES TO UNIVERSITIES AND INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRES

The shoddy implementation of Earned Allowances that has continued to cause untold chaos in Universities is yet to be implemented properly despite promises by the Government to resolve all the issues. This is made obvious, in addition to other issues by the omission of Inter-University Centres in the payment of Earned Allowances. This is considered unfair and SSANU frowns seriously at it. Inter-University Centres should therefore be considered in the next release of payment of Earned Allowances.

STAFF SCHOOL MATTERS

The issue of the University Staff Schools that had since been resolved by the National Industrial Court in favour of SSANU is still resurging despite Government's several promises to comply with the court's ruling. Many universities are yet to re-absorb teachers of the Staff Schools into their payroll.

NEC received report that the teachers are being migrated to a new salary structure called COMPISS. NEC noted that the COMPISS salary structure for university staff school teachers is a negation of the court ruling. NEC therefore advises Government to comply wholly with court ruling as the Union shall employ all means to enforce the ruling accordingly.

RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE 2009 SSANU/FGN AGREEMENT.

NEC observes with great dismay the slow pace on the commencement of the re-negotiation of the expired 2009 agreement with SSANU. SSANU as a Union has shown visible commitment towards the re-negotiation bearing in mind that the content of the existing agreement is obsolete and no longer in consonance with global universities' best practices and realities after twelve years. NEC therefore, earnestly call on Government to see to it that the process commences in earnest.

PLANNED INCREASE IN PUMP PRICE OF PREMIUM MOTOR SPIRIT (PMS)

NEC in session fumes over the attempt by the Federal Government to withdraw fuel subsidy and further increase the pump price of fuel popularly known as petrol in the midst the excruciating poverty currently experienced by citizens of Nigeria. SSANU has vowed vehemently to work with our Labour centre umbrella body, the NLC to resist this sadistic policy that will exacerbate the dehumanizing living conditions of poor Nigerians. NEC has therefore, directed

all branches to remain mobilized in compliance with Nigeria Labour Congress directive to fully participate in a long drawn nationwide protests on 27th of January and 1st of February, 2022, against the unsavory and demonic policy. Government is therefore seriously warned in the interest of peace to rescind this satanic agenda aimed at threatening our nascent democracy.

FRIGHTENING INSECURITY SITUATION IN NIGERIA

NEC observes with palpable fear the worsening rate of insecurity in the country inspite of Government's media pronouncements of curtailing insecurity. Nigeria is currently facing waves of different but overlapping security crises; extremist insurgencies, banditry, armed robbery and separatist secessionist agitations. The root cause of this malaise is bad leadership, fuelled by unbridled corruption. The consequences of these ugly developments include destroyed economy, poverty and lowered standard of education. It is common knowledge that basic, tertiary and university staff and students are victims of daily kidnapping, robbery and banditry. Government should redouble efforts in protecting her citizens by curbing this ugly situation across the country.

THE UGLY STATE OF ROADS NATIONWIDE

The precarious state of roads across the country is disheartening and calls for serious attention of Government. Almost all roads nationwide are not motorable thereby causing loss of revenue and valuable time of transporting goods and

humans to desired destinations. These bad roads are also largely responsible for several cases of robberies and kidnapping, as the long stretches of failed portions are veritable traps for commuters who are easy targets for criminals. It is shameful that Nigeria with vast wealth cannot boast of motorable roads nationwide. SSANU unequivocally calls on Government to commence rehabilitation of these roads now that it is dry season rather than wait for the rains that will inhibit construction of durable roads.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION IN THE COUNTRY.

NEC is peeved and irritated by the high rate of unemployment and inflation in Nigeria. This is largely occasioned by leadership ineptitude arising from poor economic policies. Nigeria now greatly depends on importations except until the recent improvement in the Agricultural sector. The naira tumbles daily resulting in devaluation. NEC therefore calls on Government to review its economic policies in a bid to stabilize the naira. More so, old moribund companies should be revived to provide employment for our teeming unemployed youths. Government should also strictly monitor some of the skills acquisition centres and youth empowerment outfits for targeted results. Infrastructure like electricity should be constantly provided to facilitate the private sector growth. This will reduce the crime rate.

THE PAINS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED PERSONEL PAYROLL SYSTEM (IPPIS) IN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The implementation of IPPIS has caused agonizing pains in Federal Universities in this country. Salaries are paid in unpredictable manner, where staff cannot envisage what is expected as salary monthly. This is prompting growing tension in Universities. NEC therefore urges Government to unbundle IPPIS by decentralizing the payment along staff Unions to guarantee proper payment of salaries according to staff status, capturing all allowances.

USURPATION OF NON-TEACHING OFFICES

The issue of usurpation of non-teaching staff positions by academic staff in the university system is becoming worrisome. Examples are as follows

Director, Students Affairs Unit

Director, Academic Planning

Admissions Officer

Director, Office of University Development

Principal, University Secondary School

Coordinator/Manager Transport services

Director medical services

Director, Quality Assurance Unit

Director, ICTC Centre

Director, Human Resources Development

Director, University Press

University PRO

Director, SERVICOM Unit

ON-GOING STRIKE AT PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS

NEC is aware that the Plateau State University, Bokkos is on strike.

NEC therefore calls on the Governor Simon Lalong led administration to release the sum of N310 million naira for the payment of arrears of Earned Allowances to SSANU members in PLASU. It also calls on the Prof. Izam Yohanna led Management to mainstream Hazard Allowances to SSANU members' salaries in PLASU at the Governing Council approved rate of N30,000 since the State Government has released funds for same purpose.

The Management of the University should comply with the SSANU NEC decision on the correct payment of check off dues to the Union without imposing conditions that are alien to the Trade Union Act.

The Plateau State Government should also address all other issues that led to the declaration of the indefinite strike in PLASU, as conveyed in the strike declaration letter.

EARLY RETIREMENT OF SSANU MEMBERS IN ADAMAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, MUBI

NEC deliberated on the issue of letters of retirement issued to SSANU members in Adamawa State University, Mubi by the Management of the University. NEC is aware also that the Branch has taken some action by writing to Management of the University to rescind their action as it goes contrary to the 2009 agreement between SSANU and the Federal Government of Nigeria. In the said agreement, the retirement age of our members has been increased from 60 to 65 years. We therefore call on Management of Adamawa State University to respect that agreement and allow our members to remain in service till they are up to 65 years old.

EXTORTION BY SECURITY PERSONNEL ON NIGERIAN ROADS

It is well-known by Nigerians that security men and women on our roads are extorting commuters who derive their daily living from the little money they get from conveying passengers to and from their destinations. This is in addition to the high cost of maintenance as a result of the bad nature of our roads which the vehicle owners have to bear.

SSANU in session is seriously calling on government to look at this matter and find a lasting solution to it.