



Socialist Bulletin

Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour

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Real Economic
Growth in Nigeria
Since 2000

Page 2

Benue at the Crossroads:
Confronting State
Failure and Economic
Desperation

Page 4

Shell Must Clean Up
Its Oil Pollution In
The Niger Delta

Page 5

Electricity Sector -
Distributing Inefficiency
and Darkness at High
Cost

Page 9

Solidarity with Indefinite Strike by FCT Area Councils & Other Protests

Members of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Medical & Health Workers Union (MHWUN) and National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) in the area councils of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) continue their indefinite strike that started on 24th March. All the primary schools and primary health care centres in Abuja have been shut for more than three months now.

This is an important strike over the implementation of the minimum wage. It requires solidarity from other trade unions to ensure an essential victory. Such a victory would give confidence to workers in other states who are facing the same challenges. It is estimated that around 20 other states are yet to properly implement the minimum wage that became law almost a year ago.

Complete victory demands that we organize wider support and solidarity action from across the trade union movement for the Abuja strike. The unions correctly organised protests outside Wike's office on 24th April. Such mass protests and further publicity around the strike are still needed. So it is great that the unions are organising further protests on 7 – 9th July outside Wike's office in Area 11, Abuja.

It is also encouraging that separate protests by FCTA workers closed Wike's office for a third day (with support from the students' NANS President) on Wednesday 2nd July. In a third dispute, Andrew Emelieze was released after over a day in detention by the DSS for organising a protest in Abuja on 1st July by the Federal Workers Forum over the non-payment of allowances etc to Federal workers.

It is only robust action by the relevant trade unions, their members, the wider trade union movement and civil society organizations that will make Wike and the whole Federal Government pay the workers their legal entitlements.



Socialist Labour is committed to the effective trade union action that is necessary to ensure that all trade union members share the wealth that we create. For this reason we would like to continue our support and co-operation with NLC and its member trade unions in FCT. We call on other workers to build wider support for the success of the strikes and protests.

For more details on the background to strike by FCT primary teachers and health workers, see: <https://tinyurl.com/SL552>

To contact the Federal Workers Forum write to: allworkersconvergence@gmail.com

Visit: socialistlabour.com.ng



SOCIALIST LABOUR

ABOUT US

We are socialists and Marxists
The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises have made clear that capitalism is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from it. Attempts to reform capitalism have failed: the only solution is to replace it with a truly democratic socialist society. Capitalist rulers will only give up power if forced to do so. We need a mass democratic movement to bring about socialism. Events, such as the Russian Revolution of 1917, January 12 in Nigeria and the uprisings in Sudan and Algeria in 2019, show what is needed.

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Real Economic Growth in Nigeria Since 2000 -By Tina Ndi

In the fifteen years to 2015, the Nigerian economy grew rapidly and became many times larger. Since then economic growth has continued at a more modest rate. Despite this huge economic growth, the living standards of most people have fallen since 2000, especially over the last couple of years.



The prosperity for the few continues to increase. The top five banks in Nigeria – First, UBA, GT Bank, Access and Zenith Bank increased their pre-tax profits by 60% in 2024. Dangote built one of the world's largest oil refineries. The Dangote Cement plant in Obajana, Kogi, is the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa. The sugar refining factory in Numan, Adamawa State, is also the largest in Africa. Other new factories in Nigeria include: Obi Cubana's tricycle assembly plant in Lagos and Avatar Energy's lithium plant in Nasarawa State.

In contrast, the World Bank projects that Nigeria's poverty rate will increase by nearly four percentage points by 2027. They also say that 106 million Nigerians currently live in poverty, being 15% of the world's extremely poor population. In 2022, the National Bureau of Statistics said that 63% of Nigeria's population was multidimensionally poor, a huge increase on just over 40% in 2019. In the last three years pov-

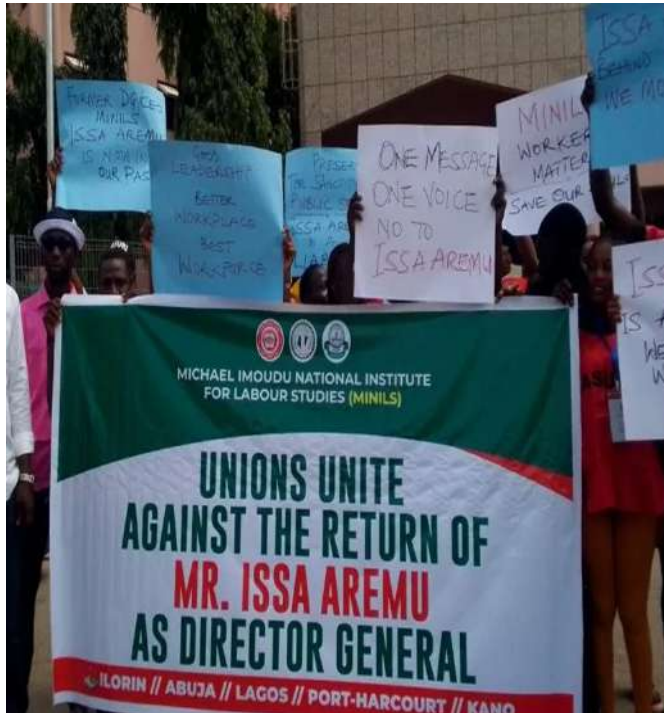
erty has increased massively due to the increase in inflation from ending the petrol subsidy and the huge devaluation of the naira.

For more details on economic growth see: <https://tinyurl.com/SL556>

#jointheresistance

Trade Union Members at the Labour Institute Strike and Protest Against Re-Appointment of Director General

Trade union members at the Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS) have taken robust action against the reappointment of the director-general of the Institute, Issa Aremu.



Protest at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Abuja

Unfortunately, the rank & file members of the relevant trade unions have generally not received the support that they need from the national leaders of their trade unions.

For four days (16- 19th June) staff at the headquarters in Ilorin, and satellite offices in Abuja and other places picketed the Institute's offices. On the fourth day, the staff were addressed by the Minister of State for Labour and Employment. Staff again provided their case against the breach of procedure over the alleged re-appointment of Issa Aremu for another four year term and their concerns over his management style. The strike was then suspended for 21 days to give time for the Government to act. Unfortunately, the Director General was able to report for work on Monday 23rd June.

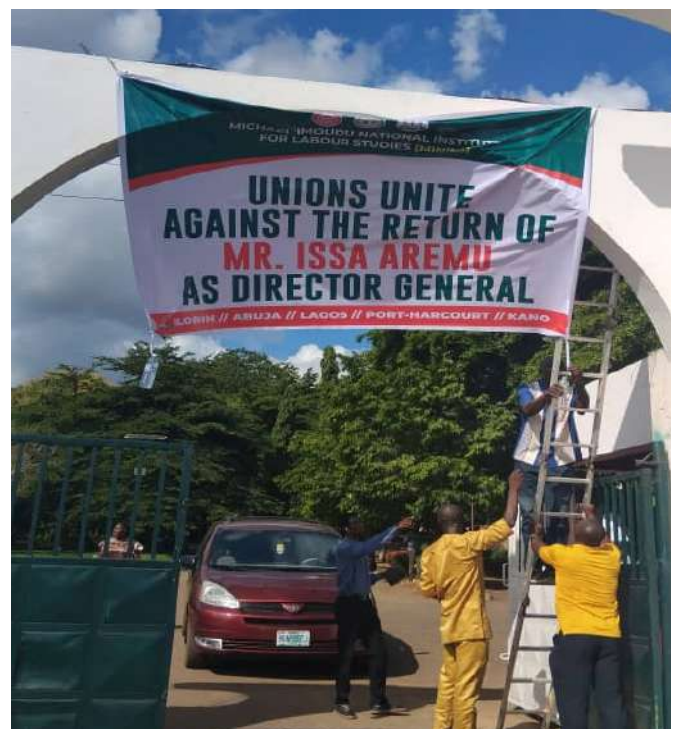
For more than four hours, the minister engaged members of the Joint Action Committee (JAC), which comprises the Academic Staff Union of Research Institutes (ASURI), the Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes and Associated Institutions (SSAUTH-RAI) and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU).

The workers continued to make five demands, including formal confirmation that Aremu's tenure had ended, an order stopping him from acting as DG, retrieval of all institute's properties in his possession, placing him on security watch list, and an unambiguous assurance that he would not be reinstated.

Unfortunately, it is only the national leadership of ASURI that have provided their members at the Institute with the necessary support. We all need to demand that our trade union leaders support this struggle for a democratic Institute that supports the vibrant struggles of the working class.

The former DG was accused by the staff of "mismanagement, insensitivity, and abuse of office". In addition, Issa Aremu, a former Secretary General of the textile workers trade union, had consistently taken the side of the Government during national strikes advising that the workers should return to work.

MINILS, an important national training institute for the trade union movement is named after the militant railway workers' leader, Michael Imoudu. It is important that such an institute remains sympathetic to the demands of workers. Michael Imoudu was famous for leading victorious strikes and suffered several periods in prison. This is the tradition we need an Institute that is named in his honour to support.



Benue at the Crossroads: Confronting State Failure and Economic Desperation

By Maxwell Adeyemi



For far too long, Benue State has witnessed gruesome killings that no successive administration—past or present—has managed to halt. This isn't merely a recurring incident; it is a symptom of a systemic failure. The bloodshed is not the product of an isolated ethnic clash but of deep-rooted socio-economic woes, political neglect, and an intelligence apparatus that appears to prioritize the interests of an elite few over the safety of the many.

The key questions that must be asked are: Who is perpetrating these killings, why are they doing it, and who stands to benefit? There is an eerie silence from the nation's security agencies on these issues. Despite credible intelligence that should be shining a light on these tragedies, no substantive report has emerged. Instead, intelligence efforts and law enforcement seem preoccupied

with safeguarding the interests of the powerful.

It is not the case that one ethnic group is inherently more violent or predatory than another. Historically, the relationship between farmers and herders in Benue was a symbiotic one—both groups traditionally sharing the land's bounty. What we see now is a crisis driven by deep-seated poverty, chronic inequality, and a system that allows corrupt elites to profit from escalating tensions. The absence of timely police intervention during assaults on Benue communities, coupled with inconsistencies in releasing credible intelligence, highlights that the problem in Benue is not one of inherent ethnic animosity but of a state machinery failing to protect its citizens.

At its core, the cycle of violence in Benue is not a dilemma of “us versus them” on an ethnic basis—it is a damning indictment of a state that has—and continues to—fail in its duty to secure its people. A comprehensive response must therefore go beyond military solutions and superficial reforms. It must include grassroots strategies, transparent intelligence operations, and, most importantly, an economic empowerment framework that guarantees a dignified standard of living for all.

An expanded version of this article is available from:

<https://tinyurl.com/SL553>

Justice for the Abuja 11: Dismiss the Baseless Charges Now!



Eleven courageous individuals were arrested for nothing more than peacefully exercising their constitutional right to protest. They were again in court last month facing ridiculous, but serious charges. The Abuja 11 were part of the #EndBadGovernance demonstrations that gave voice to the collective frustration of millions of hungry people in early August last year.

The case was once again postponed for four months until 9th October as the former police prosecutor was dismissed for changing his date of birth!

We categorically reject all the charges that have been levied against the Abuja 11. They are not criminals—they are defenders of dignity, justice, and the right to a better life. Socialist Labour demands:

1. The immediate dismissal of all charges
2. Full compensation to the affected protesters.

Peoples across Africa are facing the same repression. Last month the security forces in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, killed at least another 16 people. This marked a year since the huge protests in June last year. Around the same time, at least seven protestors were killed and people in Togo faced tear gas. This was for demanding the resignation of the President after changes to the Constitution that would allow him to continue his 20 year rule.

For further details of the case against the Abuja 11 see: <https://tinyurl.com/SL554>

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Shell Must Clean Up Its Oil Pollution In The Niger Delta-izielen Agbon

Shell has sold its Nigerian subsidiary, Shell Petroleum Development Company to the Renaissance Group. The Renaissance Group is a consortium made up of four Nigerian based exploration and production companies and an international energy group. Shell is leaving behind 67 years of pollution since it sank its first well in Olo-biri in 1958. The pollution has led to contaminated water sources, air pollution, and a range of health problems for residents.

A recent study, An Environmental Genocide: Counting the Human and Environmental Cost of Oil in Bayelsa, Nigeria - <https://report.bayelsacommission.org/> concluded that \$12 bn would be required for a basic clean-up of polluted areas of Bayelsa State. More money would be needed to clean-up oil pollution in the eight other oil producing states.

Despite Shell's denials and claims of sabotage, the company is widely criticized for its role in the pollution, including oil spills, gas flaring, and inadequate clean-up efforts. The pollution has led to contaminated water wells, petroleum-contaminated rivers and streams, air pollution, devastated ecosystems, including mangroves and other habitats, respiratory problems, skin lesions and a range of other health problems for residents.

The lives and livelihoods of millions of people living in many Niger Delta host communities have been destroyed by Shell's activities. For example, an oil spill in 2004 resulted in abandonment of the Goi community by all its inhabitant in 2010. Many communities in the Niger Delta have been involved in long-standing legal battles with Shell to seek compensation and remediation for the damage caused by oil spills.

The Bodo community has been seeking justice in court for two decades. The Ogoni people, led by Ken Saro-Wiwa, took legal action against Shell and protested Shell's oil operations and environmental damage in Ogoni land. The Nigerian Government, with support from Shell, attacked the protests and executed the Ogoni nine, including Saro-Wiwa, in 1995. The Ogoni clean-up project (the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP)), is a large-scale environmental restoration effort in Ogoniland that was started in 2016. It aims to mitigate the severe hydrocarbon pollution and contamination caused by decades of oil exploration and production.

In 2015, the Bille and Ogale communities in Rivers State took Shell to a British court for decades of oil pollution. The communities had accused Shell of widespread pollution, contamination of their lands, waterways, and drinking water, wiping out their fish population and leaving them unable to farm or fish. They demanded that Shel clean up their communities.

Shell reacted with legal delay tactics. In June 2025, a British court declared that Shell may be legally responsible for the pollution. The trial against Shell and its former Nigerian subsidiary will now take place in early 2027. Hopefully, the Bille and Ogale communities will eventually find justice. Other oil producing host communities should follow suit and bring legal cases against the Shell/Renaissance Group and other onshore oil producing companies to ensure the total clean-up of oil pollution in the Niger Delta.



Struggling to make ends meet: Women, Trade unions and petty businesses in Nigerian workplaces-By Jatau David Polang

In many countries in Africa, including Nigeria, civil servants are generally restricted from engaging in most private businesses while employed by the government. The primary exception is often farming. Civil servants are allowed to own farms as side businesses, but they are generally not allowed to undertake other businesses.

In Nigeria in particular, the Public Service Rule were updated in 2021. This allows public servants to engage in activities related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in addition to farming. It is therefore common to find civil servants engaging in ICT as well as operating farms as side businesses. Many civil servants also engage in commercial taxi driving services, mostly using their personal vehicles, before and after closing hours.

Taxi driving services by workers as side income is done by both male and female workers especially in big cities of Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Enugu. These side businesses are borne out of necessity. What many civil servants take home as salaries every month, cannot sustain them.

With the decreasing representation of women in leadership positions and at the managerial level of their organizations they suffer particularly poor wages. It is common to find women increasingly combining their work with selling recharge cards, chocolates, sweets, as well as cosmetics and dresses in the workplaces. They are seen selling local juice commonly known as 'kunu' and other forms of soft drinks at the gates of their organisations.



Some women workers have also acquired culinary skills including catering services. With these skills, they provide services in their organisations especially when there is a seminar or workshop. Most often than not, they sell to their colleagues on credit and get paid during pay days or when salaries are paid. This they undertake in order to augment income and make ends meet. These practices are common in the civil service.

Similarly, trade unions are known to provide business opportunities for their members. They provide a platform for members to access services such as training, access to salary advances, as well

as display and sale of goods during union programs. The services provided by the union to her members indicate that all members benefit from training, legal services in an event of illegal disengagement of a member by his or her employer, financial assistance for sick members, unemployment benefit and death benefit.

During the course of training, workshops or seminars, members are allowed to display hand work and thus creating business opportunities for members of the union. Some trade union branches actually do access loan facilities and give these out to members.

All these are geared toward augmenting the paltry pay that comes to workers in the name of salary every month. Trade unions need to do more in ensuring employers pay decent wages and where inflations rises, the unions should endeavour to get the government to pay a cost of living allowance.

Air Force Now Bombing All Geopolitical Zones

The Chief of the Air Staff recently confirmed that the Nigeria Air Force is regularly undertaking bombing raids in all six geopolitical zones.

The National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, claims that 13,543 insurgents were killed across the country in the first two years of Bola Tinubu's administration (nearly 600 people shot dead on sight every month). He added that 124,408 fighters of Boko Haram and its breakaway faction, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), also surrendered within the same period.

See this article on the Socialist Labour website for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/SL557>

History of Trade Union Restrictions by the Military Juntas of Nigeria By Tina Nkechi

Socialists are against military governments because we support and want to extend democracy, but also because of the experience of restrictions on trade union rights by the military regimes in Nigeria (some of which are still in place). A summary of these restrictions is as follows:

- Gowan – May 1968, Trade Disputes (Emergency Provisions) Decree No. 21

Restrictions on strikes and compulsory arbitration imposed. But the number of strikes increased.

- Gowan – December 1969, Decree No. 53

Severely restricted the use of strikes as a means of settling labour disputes with the threat of five years in jail. But the number of strikes were not greatly reduced. In 1970 there were 63 strikes involving 33,403 workers.

- Gowan, July 1973, Trade Unions Decree No. 38

Trade unions were banned in insurance, banking and telecommunications in addition to customs and armed services. New trade union had to have at least 50 members to be registered. Trade union funds could not be used for the furtherance of any political objective (still in place).

- Obasanjo - January 1976, Trade Disputes decree No. 7

Restrictions on the right to strike, trade unions could be banned for taking illegal action. But the number of strikes actually increased later this year. Workers in essential services to give at least 15 days notice before going on strike.

Established the National Industrial Court.

- Obasanjo – May 1976, Trade Disputes (Essential Services) Decree No. 23

Trade unions in essential services (most major industries) could be banned for taking strike action.

- Obasanjo – June 1976

Administrative officer appointed to handle the affairs of all, more than 2,000, trade unions and four central labour organizations dissolved.

- Obasanjo – February 1978

71 trade unions and Nigeria Labour Congress formed by Military decree. Aim was to reduce strikes by work place based trade unions. It also helped to make the trade unions more powerful. Some trade union leaders were banned, including Michael Imoudu (10 other leaders had been banned for life from holding trade union positions in 1977).

- Babangida – Military Decree, February 1988

NLC organs dissolved and placed under an administrator for 10 months until a special delegates conference elected a new leadership.

- Babangida – Military Decree 1989

Nigerian armed forces, customs and prison services, Central Bank, and other government bodies were prohibited from forming or joining trade unions. This included banning the Customs & Excise and Immigration Staff Union banned. <https://tinyurl.com/SL559>

- Abacha – July 1994

Two unions of oil and gas workers went on strike to demand Abiola's poll victory be recognised. Strike suppressed, leaders of the oil unions and NLC replaced with state-appointed sole administrators for four years. Two top union leaders, Frank Kokori and Milton Dabibi, were detained without trial, along with many labour officials.

Given this experience, we are against any military junta. We are also in solidarity with the workers across West Africa and the world who are suffering under such dictatorships. However, it is important to note that where trade unions take effective action, decrees, laws and government restrictions can be safely ignored. The strength of the united working class is stronger than any decree, law or government. In addition, these restrictions by military juntas may not be removed by civilian governments without a fight by the trade unions.

Landmark Victory For Union Democracy!



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See this article on the Socialist Labour website for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/SL558>

Our Society on the Edge – Poverty, Corruption and the Resulting Violence -By Murtala Muhammad Gidado

Last month we witnessed an alarming upsurge in violent crimes and massacres across the country. Many of these bore the masks of ethnic or religious tensions. But beneath the surface lies a more brutal truth: these conflicts are less about identity and more about survival. Of course we condemn these massacres, but we also have to fight to remove the underlying causes.

Poverty is deepening and opportunities are shrinking, violence has become the language of the desperate. Communities are not fighting each other because of who they are, but because of what they lack. The fierce contest for dwindling resources, land, jobs, food, and dignity is being stoked by decades of corruption, misgovernance, and the failure of leadership to build inclusive systems.

The real war is between the haves and the have-nots. We need to unite the have-nots to demand a lead from the trade unions over implementation of the minimum wage and a Cost of Living Allowance.

A victory in this fight will greatly reduce the economic terror that is the broad underlying cause of the massive rise of insecurity and crime in recent years. It would immediately end hunger for millions of families of working people. They would quickly spend this extra money in the markets lifting millions of market women and okada drivers out of poverty.

A victory for the implementation of the minimum wage in local governments across many states, including even the FCT, would immediately provide much needed money in every local government thus quickly reducing rural poverty.

We need all readers of our Socialist Bulletin to be more active in their trade unions and/or to talk to trade union members they may know. We need demands to be made in all trade unions for action now for full implementation of the minimum wage with arrears for the last year. We need a Cost of Living Allowance to compensate for the massive inflation in recent years. We need solidarity for all existing disputes and support for protests like those in Abuja at the beginning of this month.

UAE Expanding Role in Africa

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has recently emerged as the largest investor in Africa, surpassing China, the EU, and the US. Between 2019 and 2023, UAE-linked firms announced \$110 billion in investment projects across the continent—more than double the investments from the UK, France, or China.

To protect these interests, UAE is heavily involved in various aspects of insecurity. This includes funding the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan and the Government of DRC in its war with Rwanda, in exchange for interests in copper and cobalt mines in the East of DRC. It also includes military deals with the governments of Mali and Chad and military training in Nigeria.



Summary of Workers Strikes - July 2025

We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes in your state or community. All these strikes need our support and solidarity. We call on all trade union branches to send messages of support and to organise solidarity visits to any strikes in their localities. To read more about how to organise effective strikes, see: <https://tinyurl.com/solidarityunity>

Members of the **Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT)**, **Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE)**, **Medical & Health Workers Union (MHWUN)** and **National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM)** in the area councils of FCT continued their indefinite strike that started on 24th March. All the primary schools and primary health care centres have been shut for more than three months. This important strike over the implementation of the minimum wage needs solidarity from other trade unions to win its essential victory. Major protests were planned for 7-9th July.

Trade union members of three trade unions at the **Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies** struck against the reappointment of the director-general of the Institute, Issa Aremu. The strike continued for four days (16- 19th June) at the headquarters in Ilorin and satellite offices in Abuja and other places. These offices were also picketed by the Institute's staff.

The **academic and non-academic staff of six tertiary institutions in Ondo State** held a two week warning strike from 19th June. Their demands are around the failure of the State Government to implement the national minimum wage, pay salary arrears, and release outstanding wage awards, among other grievances. The institutions included are the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko; Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology; University of Medical Sciences, Ondo and the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo. The Joint Action Committee comprises the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, Non-Academic Staff Union, National Association of Academic Technologists and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Polytechnics.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) declared an indefinite strike in the **local governments of Osun State** from 17th February. This was in protest against the planned resumption of sacked All Progressives Congress (APC) council executives, who were reinstated by a Court of Appeal verdict. The strike is supported by NULGE in the State. The strike in the 30 local governments continued in late May.

Members of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Polytechnics Workers (SSANPW) at the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic started an indefinite strike on 8th April over the six months non-payment of salaries by the Ondo State Government.

The State Government has promised to pay three out of the six months owed and to look into other issues. The union suspended the strike on 2nd June.

The **Medical and Dental Consultants' Association of Nigeria, South-West Zone**, declared an indefinite withdrawal of services by clinical lecturers in universities across the region over the non-payment of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure. All academic activities involving clinical lecturers were suspended, including lectures, tutorials, student rotations, assessments, and examinations from early February. The strike was suspended on 16th June after at least some members were paid the CONMESS.

A national strike by **Judiciary workers**, members of JUSUN, was suspended after two days from 4th June. The strike was over the non-implementation of the minimum wage. The strike was suspended after intervention by the Chief Judge.

Judiciary workers, members of JUSUN, started an indefinite strike in all 18 local government areas of **Ondo State** from 13th June. The strike is due to the failure to implement the Memorandum of Understanding granting financial autonomy to the judiciary in the State.

The **Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria** suspended its strike of tanker drivers on 17th June after two days in the Lekki-Epe area. This followed the Lagos State Government's decision to dialogue over the ₦12,500 levy.

There were also strikes and protests by **Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA)** workers. They closed Wike's office for a third day (with some support from the students' NANS President) on Wednesday 2nd July. They are demanding arrears of promotions, allowances etc.

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Socialist Labour-JOIN US

The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises show that society is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from our work. Reform attempts have failed: the only solution is a truly democratic socialist society. The corrupt elite will only give up their power if forced to do so. We need a mass democratic movement to bring about socialism. Events, such as Russia in 1917, the January 2012 protests in Nigeria and the mass uprisings in Sudan and Algeria from 2019, begin to show what we need.

For more details of the basic ideas and policies of Socialist Labour see:

www.socialistlabour.com.ng/about-us/

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We would love to receive letters, comments or suggestions from our readers. We want to hear from you with suggestions for articles for our future editions or questions on any articles in this issue. We especially welcome news about protests and strikes in your community or town.

Socialist Labour Depends on its Supporters for Finances

Socialist Labour depends on its members and supporters for finances. We need more financial support so that we can be more active, expand and grow. If you are able to make a modest financial contribution that would be really helpful. We would also like all readers of this Bulletin to consider fully joining Socialist Labour by paying monthly subscriptions. The standard rate is ₦1,000 a month, **with a lower rate of ₦500 for students, pensioners or unemployed** and ₦5,000 for higher paid comrades. We can all afford something - every little helps.

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