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STATE OF THE STRUGGLE

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THE SIEGE OF **INSECURITY** IN NIGERIA

Imperatives of Human and Physical Security



From the President's Desk:
Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni



International Window: Biden to
launch pro-union task force



National Security Summit:
Senator Ken Nnamani, GCON

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Confederation, Brussels Global Headquarters

Mrs. Ene Obi

Country Director, Action Aid International

Joel Odigie

Deputy General Secretary, International Trade Union
Confederation – Africa, Lome Regional Headquarters

Fagbamigbe Tolulope

Chairperson, Nigeria Labour Congress, Youth Committee

From the President's Desk

THE SIEGE OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Following the decisions of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and as part of the activities in commemoration of the 2021 International Workers' Day, the 2nd NLC National Security Summit took place on the 29th of April 2021. The theme of the Summit was **“Overcoming the Siege of Insecurity in Nigeria: The Imperatives of Human and Physical Security”**.

The burden to bring together different heads and players in the security and academic sectors of Nigeria to discuss the way forward from the current crises of insecurity in Nigeria was borne out of the sense of duty by the Nigeria Labour Congress as a pan Nigerian organization and the largest workers' representative organization in Nigeria and Africa that the NLC has a responsibility to represent and defend workers' concerns and interests in the matter of security, which we perceive as the collective duty of all citizens.

This Summit took place at the backdrop of increase in terrorism, banditry and all shades of criminality including abductions and killings. In North East

Nigeria, Boko Haram terrorists have asserted themselves as

purveyors of a resilient

medium to high intensity violence. In

the North West geopolitical zone, armed

bandits who specialize in rural

banditry and kidnapping hold sway. In North Central

Nigeria, the perennial conflict between herders and crop farmers has

intensified and has assumed a larger-

than-life status. In the South West

Zone, the invasion of criminal elements who commit all sorts of crimes have led to the emergence of counter local militias. In the South South and South East geopolitical zones, criminal groups now attack and kill security agents and steal their weapons. This was exactly how Boko Haram started in the North East.

The security situation in our country has evolved into a very serious challenge. This is why we brought together seasoned experts under the chairmanship of Distinguished Senator Ken Nnamani, former President of the Nigerian Senate. The lead Speaker, Professor Etannibi Alemika is an accomplished scholar in the field of security and the distinguished panel of discussants will also provide critical perspectives on this matter.

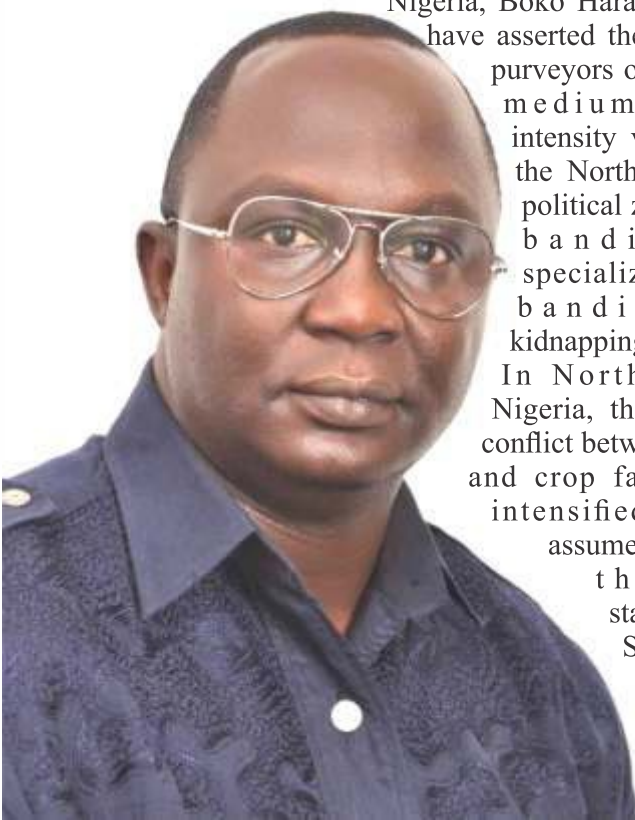
The faculty of discussants and participants at the Summit came from various backgrounds. There was also a workers' representative who conveyed the grim reality of the situation especially from Borno State where we have lost over one thousand workers.

The temperament of the Summit was moderated by the ILO Recommendation 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience which prioritizes employment and decent work for promoting peace, preventing crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters, enabling recovery and building resilience. ILO Recommendation 205 emphasizes that there cannot be sustainable peace and security without respect for all human rights and the rule of law including respect for fundamental principles and rights at work and international labour standards. Recommendation 205 also considers the need to recognize that crises affect women and men differently and thus projects the critical importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in promoting peace, preventing crises, enabling recovery and building resilience.

At the Summit, we made a call to Nigeria's political elites to take responsibility for the actions they take while in office. We underscored the fact that there is a clear nexus between throwing workers out of jobs, the resultant increase in unemployment and the rising waves of insecurity. Kaduna State is a perfect example for this. As we make our beds, so we lie on it! We pray for peace and security founded on justice for Nigeria.



Comrade
Ayuba Wabba, mni
President, Nigeria Labour Congress





From the **EDITOR IN-CHIEF**

It appears that there was a conspiracy of criminals to intensify their attacks on Nigeria and innocent Nigerians in the past few months. The insurgency of organized terrorism, banditry and kidnapping took a different shape. There was hardly a day that passed in Nigeria without the news of one raid or kidnapping incident or the sacking of whole villages and communities in different parts of Nigeria. At a point, it appeared as if Nigeria had become one big conflict zone as even places such as the Federal Capital Territory thought to be far out of the reach of criminal elements fell under the attack of different forms of criminality. When kidnappers migrated from their usual outposts on the highways and found comfort raiding and snatching Nigerians from their homes, schools, business premises and places of worship, it dawned on all that something drastic must be done about the security challenges otherwise the whole nation would be engulfed in a carnage.

The Nigeria Labour Congress acting under the directives of the 12th National Delegates Conference and a 2019 resolution of the National Executive Council decided to organize the 2nd NLC National Peace and Security Summit. The theme of the Summit was **“Overcoming the Siege of Insecurity in Nigeria: The Imperatives of Human and Physical Security”**. The Summit which was chaired by former Senate President, Senator Ken Nnamani and co-chaired by the pioneer President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Hassan Sunmonu drew well respected Nigerians from different walks of life who put aside political and ethno-religious differences to speak from their hearts on the way out of the current political tight spot that Nigeria has found herself.

In his welcome remarks, the President of Congress, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, drew a nexus between physical insecurity and the absence of basic human security in Nigeria especially in terms of decent jobs, sustainable livelihood and effective social services. Congress President called on political

leaders to re-evaluate how their actions and inactions contribute to the insecurity in the country. Leading the charge of intellectuals at the Summit was the Lead Paper Presenter, Professor Etannibi Alemika who called for a complete overhaul of Nigeria's security philosophy, orientation and approach from a human security perspective as the foundation for an enduring and sustainable physical security architecture. Other members of the faculty and those who delivered goodwill messages at the Summit including former NLC President, two term Governor of Edo State and the immediate past National Chairman of the ruling All Progressive Congress were of the consensus opinion that except the country addresses the crises of unemployment, unemployable workforce, illiteracy, hunger and destitution, there would be no end to the siege of insecurity in our land.

In the month of April 2021, the statutory organs of Congress took very far-reaching decisions on a number of challenges that are militating against the interest of workers in Nigeria. Top on the list was the recent decision by the Kaduna State Governor to sack more than 60% of the workforce in the state. The NEC of Congress took a decision to ground socio-economic activities in Kaduna State on a date to be decided. The NEC also condemned and rejected calls for the scrapping of local government system in Nigeria. Finally, there were a number of birthdays and celebrations by comrades in the month of April. We wish all the celebrants more power in the service of workers.

Happy Reading!

Comrade Emmanuel Ugboaja, Esq

+234 8033015037

stateofthestruggle@gmail.com



THE SIEGE OF **INSECURITY** IN NIGERIA

Imperatives of Human and Physical Security

Cover Story by: Benson Upah, Esq :: Echezona Asuzu

THE SIEGE OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Imperatives of Human and Physical Security

April 29, 2021 will remain epochal in the annals of the trade union movement in Nigeria as the 2nd NLC National Security Summit was organized at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. The Summit which was chaired by former Senate President, Senator Ken Nnamani, who was assisted by the pioneer President of Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Hassan Sunmonu, was held under the theme **“Overcoming the Current Siege of Insecurity in Nigeria: Imperatives of Human and Physical Security”**, with Professor Etannibi Alemika as the Lead Paper Presenter.

There was no better time to convene the 2nd NLC National Security Summit than now given the rash of very troubling challenges in Nigeria today. In recent times, Nigeria has never been enveloped with the dark clouds of a foreboding atmosphere of insecurity as we are right now. Never in the history of our existence as a Sovereign State has the crises of national insecurity been as widespread, profound and overwhelming as now.

In the North East geo-political zone, the Boko Haram terrorists have asserted themselves as purveyors of a resilient medium to high intensity violence. In the North West geo-political zone, armed bandits who specialize in rural banditry and kidnapping hold sway. In the North Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria, the perennial conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers has intensified and assumed a larger-than-life status. In the South West and South East geo-political zones, the invasion of the so-called herdsmen who perpetrate all sorts of criminal activities have led to the emergence of counter local militias. In the South

South geopolitical zone, the activities of militant groups and criminal elements continue to constitute serious socio-economic threats.

Of great concern is the peril that the rising wave of insecurity in Nigeria presents to Nigerian workers. Between 2009 and 2015, Boko Haram had destroyed more than 910 schools and forced at least 1500 other learning centres to close. At least, 546 teachers were killed and another 19,000 forced to flee their homes as the insurgents ravaged towns, and villages in North East, Nigeria. In Borno State alone, it was reported in March 2016 that 512 primary schools, 38 secondary schools and two tertiary institutions had been completely destroyed. Overall, Boko Haram has killed at least 20,000 persons and displaced over two million people since its inception.

In 2012, Nigeria was on the verge of eradicating polio but not any longer. A 2015 study of the health sector in Borno State shows that only 37 percent of health facilities remained operational, yet they



Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni

serve some 10 million residents. Overall, out of over 749 health facilities in Borno State, 35% are completely destroyed, 29% are partially damaged while only about 37% are still intact.

Very worrisome is the persisting threat of public health epidemics that the Boko Haram activities predispose the entire country and the sub region to. The tragedy of the wanton destruction is that about 50% of all the health facilities in the North East are supported by donor partners who can longer assist owing to the raging violence.

Beyond North East, Nigeria, similar theatres of violence are replicated all over the country as armed bandits and criminal elements strive to impose their will and reign of terror on the citizenry. In Zamfara and Katsina states, there is hardly a week that passes without a criminal raid or kidnapping incidence. The web of criminality is so organized that the bandits have a retinue of soft targets especially schools which they



raid and cart away students and turn around to demand ransom from government. In most of the cases, the state governments affected are left with no choice than to pay.

In the North Central geopolitical zone, the spate of clashes between pastoralists and indigenous crop farmers has been on the increase. Even State Governors have alleged that their convoys had come under attack by the well-armed criminals either disguising as pastoralists or crop farmers. In the South West and South East where cases of kidnap and armed robbery had been reportedly executed by the so-called herdsmen, the people have mobilized militia to defend their communities. The danger here is that these non-state actors are more likely to operate with non-conventional rules and arbitrariness that might

only end up exacerbating ethno-religious tensions and causing more problems.

The overall impact of the foregoing security crises is the enormous threat it presents to national unity, peace and mutual co-existence as the criminal enterprise of violent non-state actors seems to question and put Nigeria's sovereignty under very severe *litmus test*. The pervading and widespread violence apart from contributing to both internal and external displacement, and imposing a pattern of forced migration and refugee crisis all over the country, also exacerbates the scourge of child labour leaving in its wake wanton destruction of livelihoods, communities and dreams. It has also ballooned the population of orphans and widows in the affected places thus worsening destitution.

In light of the myriad of challenges to national peace and security, the 12th delegates Conference of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), held in the month of February 2019

passed a key resolution on **Peace, Security and Resilience**. The resolution directs the Congress to make conscious and meticulous efforts to use the provision of ILO recommendation 205 (employment and decent work for peace and resilience) to pursue, achieve and consolidate and sustain peace and resilience in Nigeria and Africa. In line with the resolution of the National Delegates Conference of the NLC and having observed further deterioration in the security situation in Nigeria, the National Executive Council (NEC) of Congress which met on the 21st of August 2019 resolved to convene a National Peace and Security Summit which would be the second in the series. The decision of the NEC was quickly set into motion as a planning committee was put in place by the National Secretariat of the

Congress.

The Committee re-floated the 2nd National Peace and Security Summit to take place as part of the activities by the Nigeria Labour Congress to commemorate the 2021 International Workers Day.

The Faculty for the Summit included eminent Nigerians who had risen to the very top of their professional calling in the security and academic fields. They included **IGP Solomon Arase**, rtd., former Inspector General of Police, **Professor Khalifa Dikwa** from the University of Maiduguri, **Mr. Hamid Abbo**, MFR, mni, rtd., a former Director, State Security Services, **Professor Joy Onyesoh**, International President, WILPF, **Major General G.A. Wahab**, rtd. – DG, NARC and **Comrade Bulama Abiso**, Chairperson, NLC Borno State who provided the workers perspective of the current siege of insecurity and terrorism in North East Nigeria.

The objectives of the Summit include:

- (a) To bring key stakeholders including government functionaries, traditional rulers, religious leaders, legislators, judiciary, military, police, para military organizations, the trade union movement, civil society organisations, development agencies to deliberate on the challenges of peace, security and development in Nigeria;
- (b) To propose suggestions on the way forward for a peaceful and secure Nigerian society, with concerted focus on human and physical security and addressing economic, political, education, governance, social, security intelligence



Sen. Ken Nnamani, GCON

issues, and rising inequality and vulnerability especially for women and children;

- (c) To discuss ways to improve the safety of workers, their families and public institutions especially schools, hospitals, and public offices;
- (d) To carry out a national rally on peace, security and national unity in Nigeria; and
- (e) To popularize the ILO recommendation 205 on employment, decent work for peace and resilience.

In his welcome remarks, the President of Congress, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni bemoaned the deteriorating security situation in the country. He said that all over the country there are very significant cases of severe breaches of security with incidences of kidnap-for-ransom, banditry and terrorism on the rise. While commiserating with the families of the slain students of Greenfield University, Kaduna, Congress President said that there is a very strong link between the penchant by the Kaduna State Governor to sack and dehumanize workers and the increase in insecurity in Kaduna State. Congress President went on to call for respect for the provisions of ILO Recommendation 205 on Peace, Recovery and Resilience especially with regards to improving the conditions for human security as the panacea for sustainable peace and security in Nigeria.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the National Summit, Comrade Ken Nnamani, GCON



Comrade Festus Keyamo With Comrade Adams Oshomhole

went down history lane to recount the contributions of the Nigeria Labour Congress to peace and security in Nigeria especially with regards to the struggle of Congress in the defense of workers' rights and in the promotion of national socio-economic development. The Senate President charged the participants to take the matter of national security seriously and personally as it is an issue that touches every Nigerian regardless of ethnic, religious or political leaning and persuasion.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony of the Summit, the Co-Chairman and the pioneer President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Hassan Sunmonu, OON, stressed that the current security situation in Nigeria is structural in nature. He said that there is need to address the deficits in the 1999 Constitution which he described as a creation of the military and a source of discontentment and conflicts among Nigerians.

In his Lead Paper Presentation, Comrade Etannibi Alemika defined security in terms of physical security, as absence of threats to national sovereignty and security; protection from fear or experience of loss of life, injury and harm to the body, and loss of property to crime or destruction. He also defined human security as protection of national sovereignty and security; freedom from bodily harm; loss of property as well as protection from fear or experience of want or lack of food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, dignity, livelihood, potable water, electricity, transportation, communication and recreation. Professor Alemika identified objective and subjective dimensions of security. Objective dimension of security, according to him, refers to experience of incidence and impact of security and insecurity while subjective dimension of security refers to feeling of being safe or absence of fear of being a victim of insecurity.

From a global perspective, Professor Alemika identified dimensions of human security to

include the following

1. *Personal security and safety*: protection against harm to of life and loss of property
2. *Social security*: guaranteed access to adequate and appropriate food, nutrition, shelter, health care, education or functional literacy as well as participation in and benefit from socio-cultural processes in the country
3. *Economic security* – opportunities for acquisition of skills, employment, income sufficient to satisfy basic needs, protection against poverty, and low inter-personal and inter-group economic inequalities
4. *Political security*: democratic system of governance capable of protecting rule of law, fundamental rights and liberties, guarantee of inclusive participation in the political process, and protection war and civil disorder
5. *Environmental security*: development of environment, utilization and conservation of natural and environmental resources for the wellbeing of present and future generations
6. *National security*: capacity of the state and government to protect citizens; core values, interests, institutions and critical assets; sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country from external aggression and internal or domestic subversion
7. *Transnational or global security*: absence of threats to regional and global economic and political stability.

Professor Alemika underscored the point that there has been worsening insecurity problem in Nigeria for the past four decades, since the 1980s. The problem had been inadequately



Some of the dignitaries at the 2nd NLC National Peace and Security Summit

tackled by successive government until it became intractable and more recently assumed an extraordinary threat to the cohesion, stability, unity and development. He recalled that since 2010, scores of people are killed or kidnapped everyday by terrorists, bandits and criminal gangs. Current insecurity problems in the country can be traced to several sources but significantly to the following factors and actions in 1980s - economic crisis; adoption of the structural adjustment programme (SAP) and associated neglect and deterioration of human development and welfare services by the government; combined effect of economic crises and structural adjustment programme, and ethno-religious identity politics, exemplified by the clandestine review of country's observer status to full membership of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC).

According to Professor Alemika, these conditions and actions were initiated or managed by the military government, to a very significant extent, by means of repression, duplicity and division of citizens along primordial affinities in order to forestall mass resistance. All of that ensured that Nigeria's nation-building and development efforts were severely fractured by these developments, which were compounded since 1999 by unbridled corruption and brazen violations of the provisions in section 10 and chapter 2 of the Nigerian Constitution by successive civilian administrations at all levels of government.

Professor Etannibi Alemika identified three major classifications of insecurity in contemporary Nigeria.

1. Violent crimes: insurgency and terrorism, armed robbery, banditry, violent conflict between herders and farmers, criminal gang and cult violence, violent conflicts among and across ethnic, religious and communal groups, sexual violence, murder and kidnapping by terrorists

2. Economic and financial crimes: corruption; embezzlement; money laundering; advanced fee fraud; kidnapping for ransom; transnational crimes of trafficking in persons, drugs and arms, human and trafficking, counterfeiting, human smuggling; fraud, theft and burglary.
3. Political crimes: violation of human rights by individuals, groups, organisations and officials of government; electoral fraud and violence and suppression or disregard of the rule of law.

While offering perspectives on the way forward, Professor Alemika stressed that the reversal of insecurity in the country requires economic development with equity; adequate and appropriate investment in human development; inclusive and democratic governance, as well as effective restraint and deterrence of top government officials from using state power to promote partisan primordial interests, especially by means of ethnic and religious patronages and impunity. In his presentation, Professor Alemika identified the causative factors of insecurity in the country and measures for overcoming the national crises through policies and programmes that promote human security and development were proposed.

In more specific ways, Professor Alemika proffered the following as solutions to Nigeria's challenges of insecurity:

1. Socio-cultural and political socialisation and incentives for the internalisation of the virtues and values that promote and protect human dignity and solidarity; patriotism, compliance with laws enacted for security, order, as well as effective and accountable democratic governance



Prof. E. Alemika

- of society;
2. Appropriate policies and investment in human development to guarantee availability and accessibility of qualitative public education and health care services to ensure high literacy and health status, which are prerequisite to inclusive and effective participation of persons in all levels and sectors of society;
 3. Empowerment and inclusive participation of every person and group at all levels in the economic and socio-political processes and activities of society;
 4. Economic system that is capable of sustaining growth with equity due to high productivity that generate employment and ensure reduction in poverty and deprivations;
 5. Creating conducive conditions for sustainable development in the real sector of the economy;
 6. Promote knowledge economy through partnerships among government, industry and tertiary institutions as is being championed by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund
 7. Adequate investment in infrastructure, through appropriate policies and partnerships, required for economic growth with inclusion and equity, industrial production, vibrant and efficient commercial, financial and service sectors for high living standards;
 8. Reforms in the oil sector to guarantee self-reliance in oil refining through appropriate legislation and incentives for small and medium scale refining plants using appropriate and safe technologies, which promote participation of local entrepreneurs in oil producing states, generate employment, reduce poverty, guarantee stable supply at reasonable costs;
 9. Educational system that continuously generate appropriate knowledge and technology for prevention and mitigation of threats to human and national security and development;
 10. Socio-political orientation and mobilisation towards the promotion and protection of accountable, responsive and efficient democratic governance that promote human security;
 11. Promotion of multi-layered identities through multiple associational membership and participation that cut across ethnic and religious identities
 12. Enhancing transparency and accountability of the institutions of government at all levels;
 13. Promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms and rule of law;
 14. Free channels of dialogue and communication between the government and citizens;
 15. Identification, strengthening, mobilisation and coordination of the energies and resilience of citizens and groups against insecurity;
 16. Strengthening of the capacity, capability, responsiveness, oversight and accountability of security, intelligence, police and other criminal justice and



- strategic regulatory agencies;
17. Constitutional framework for a democratic and participatory local government system with adequate autonomy, powers and resources as well as effective accountability mechanisms
 18. Inter-religious rivalry and partisan government patronage are hindrances to nation-building and peaceful co-existence. Government should leave the religious space to religious institutions. The constitutional provisions on freedom of religion, non-religious discrimination, and non-involvement of government in the implementation or administration of religious programmes, institutions and laws should be strengthened and scrupulously enforced. Religious institutions and laws should be administered by the religious organizations with their own resources within the context of voluntary associational life.
 19. Appointment and upgrading of traditional rulers as well as the repressive conduct of some are sources of communal conflict. In some cases, such appointment and upgrading create and sustain internal colonialism which are resisted by violence. Government should leave the management of traditional institutions to the different cultural groups to which they belong as cultural heritage. A republican system cannot continue to harbour feudal institutions.
 20. Government should establish and maintain effective mechanisms for monitoring, identifying and responding to early warning signs.
 21. The government and civil society should develop capacity for conflict prevention, mitigation, mediation and resolution.
 22. Appropriate constitutional, legal and policy frameworks should be evolved to handle conflicts over economic and natural resource such as oil, solid mineral, fish pond, farm and grazing land;
 23. The Nigerian Labour Congress in partnership with the Trade Union Congress and progressive trade unions, professional associations and civil society organisations should develop a charter of demand on the government and partner with it in achieving the following:
 - a. guaranteeing compulsory and free qualitative basic education of nine years schooling;
 - b. available and accessible qualitative secondary and tertiary education;
 - c. available and accessible qualitative and efficient health care system;
 - d. creation of conditions conducive to economic development with equity capable of generating sustainable high employment and poverty reduction rates;
 - e. reversal of violations of economic objectives in chapter two of the Constitution, where feasible and desirable;
 - f. pursuit of economic development through industrialisation, promotion of knowledge economy and efficient service sectors;
 - g. implementation of the social objectives, including social protection measures enshrined in chapter two of the Constitution;
 - h. political education on civic duties of citizens as enshrined in chapter two of the constitutions and social democratic governance values and principles;
 - i. implementation of policies to promote self-reliance in local refining of petroleum products; safe exploitation of mineral resources and restoration of mining sites;



- j. strengthening of local government administration .

Professor Alemika also stressed the need for the capacity and capability of the Nigerian armed forces, security and criminal justice agencies to be constantly assessed in light of prevailing security dynamics. He urged the Federal government to engage the public in transparent dialogue and acknowledge its constraints so that it can mobilise citizens to support efforts at combatting the multi-faceted and worsening insecurities in the country. He also identified the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) as the lead internal security service and bemoaned the fact that it is poorly equipped in all areas – personnel, material, modern intelligence and investigation equipment and skills, and operation. He went on to call for annual recruitment of junior officers into the Nigeria Police Force.

He also counselled that members of the Police Mobile Force should not be deployed as escorts and body-guards to the powerful and wealthy persons in society. He also called for the establishment of an intermediate force between the Nigeria Police Force and the Armed Forces.

Professor Alemika called for a national constitutional and statutory framework to regulate the establishment, operations and dissolution of armed security providers established sub-national states. He opined that non-state security providers should be duly regulated and supervised through registration and of groups and biometric database of their operatives. He also stressed that the deployment of the military in special operations and task forces in virtually all the states of the Federation constitute threat to

the professionalism of the armed forces as it has the prospect of civilianisation of the military and the militarisation of society.

The Lead Paper Presenter also underscored the urgent need for the establishment and maintenance of functional and efficient industry for the production of different equipment, arms and ammunition in the country. He said that the country should aim at achieving a reasonable level of self-reliance arms and military equipment production within the next ten years by strengthening research and development, and partnerships.

In his final submissions, Professor Alemika warned against the politicisation of the country's security and criminal justice agencies. He said that professional and efficient human resources management system should be established for the agencies. Recruitment, promotion, appointment and deployment should be determined by possession of appropriate competence and demonstrated meritorious performance. An effective system for intelligence sharing; joint operations; communication, collaboration and coordination among security agencies should be established and sustained.



Prof. Joy Onyesoh

Professor Joy Onyesoh, the Global President of Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and a panellist discussant at the Summit was of the view that, there was need to promote the idea of making security agents to be accountable to civil authority was key to solving security challenges. She advocated for collectivism in holding security agents or operatives accountable to civil authority. She pointed out that by abandoning the issue of security in the hand of few or single individual amount to disloyalty.

Professor Khalifa Dikwa of the University of Maiduguri who was also a member of the Faculty of Discussants bemoaned the way Nigeria imitates foreign policies. He primarily identified corruption and abuse of resources by Nigeria's political elites and leaders as the main reason for the current state of discord, strife and insecurity in the country.

Professor Dikwa observed that the absence of truth as a superstructure for the building of a modern State is also a fundamental reason for the way Nigeria has evolved over the years. He went on to say that the task of nation building is not for those who are sleeping and those who cannot tell truth to power. He also condemned the sack of 35,000 workers and described it as a violation of human rights, according to him the consequences of the sack were poverty and insecurity. He posited that where the employer fails to pay workers due on the table, somehow the workers will pay themselves under the table. He also criticised non-payment of minimum wage and other benefits.

A former Director of the State Security Services, Hamid Abbo, mni, MFR observed that the type of insecurity in the country was one based on religion. He advocated for devolution of power to the local areas in order to check our porous border. He posited that joblessness and lack of social security for youths is the major cause of insecurity. He went further to make the argument that the abuse of social media is one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. He also advised on the importance of intelligence collection and necessary legislation as solution to insurgency. He was of the view that greater synergy between government and other stakeholders should be enhanced.

He urged the Federal Government to listen to meaningful agitation from communities and groups. According to him, such agitation could lead to people taking a recourse to arms. He also stressed the need for a capable armed force. The NLC to downplay the of strike and picketing and non-voluntarism in carrying out union duty. In conclusion, he advised the NLC to collaborate with the security agencies in order to fight crime.

General G. A. Wahab (rtd), the Director General of the Nigerian Army Resource Centre (NARC) was of the view that the two hundred million Nigerians cannot be easily protected by the few number of security agents. He stressed the need for state governors to allow the local government areas to function. He was particular about the devolution of power. He cautioned the government on non-implementation of policy guidelines.

In his presentation at the Summit, the NLC State Chairperson of Borno State, Comrade Abiso Bulama said that the current scourge of insecurity in North East Nigeria especially between 2020 and now is nothing like what had been witnessed in the past. He said that the activities of the insurgents have driven a new wave of fear in the heart of the civilian population in these places and also among the military and security institutions stationed in the North East.

Comrade Bulama said that a lot of workers and other Nigerians had been felled by the terrorists' bullets already leaving in its wake a burgeoning crisis of destitution as many of those killed were the breadwinners of their families. While enumerating some of the initiatives taken by the NLC State Council in Borno State to advocate for peace and resilience and the role of international NGOs such as the Solidarity Centre and the Public Service International in helping the trade unions tackle peculiar challenges amidst the crisis especially with regards to preparing a Charter of Demands to Government, he stressed the need for concerted efforts to end the insurgency.

He opined that there should be increased



Comrade Adams Oshomhole

synergy between government and organized citizens groups such as labour, traditional rulers and the civilian Joint Task Force, community vigilante/hunters' groups for the fight against the insurgency to be deepened and made sustainable. He also called for proper arming of the military with modern technology suitable for fighting insurgency. Finally, he called for support to victims of the insurgency through a Victims Support Fund where workers can make contributions to the upkeep of the families of fallen compatriots. He also called for government to pay serious attention to the remuneration of workers especially frontline workers in the places heavily impacted by the ongoing insurgency.

Some fireworks were generated by Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, former NLC President and two term Governor of Edo State and the immediate past Chairman of the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC). Comrade Adams Oshiomhole who described himself as a Labour man in politics said that the crisis of insecurity is more about a revolution by the excluded and oppressed segment of our population. He said that the crisis of social insecurity in Nigeria where a significant proportion of the citizenry have been denied access to basic good education is the reason for the ongoing medium to high intensity violence in different parts of the country.

Comrade Adams Oshiomhole called on the political leaders in the country to do a soul searching on their commitment to the welfare and social security of the populace. He

described as tragic a situation where labour leaders would be pushed to take up advertorials in national newspapers to educate the political class on the need to pay workers a decent national minimum wage. He said that during his time as the Edo State Governor, he never needed to be cajoled to pay the national minimum wage to Edo workers because he understood the role of decent wages and the provision of basic social services such as affordable and effective education and healthcare to a peaceful society. He said that State Governors in Nigeria need to rescale their priorities otherwise the current siege of insecurity would be a child's play compared to what is coming with many more Nigerians and even workers falling daily into the gully of poverty and destitution.

While appreciating the efforts of the leadership of Organized Labour in Nigeria to the current state of affairs in Nigeria, he called on the leadership of Labour not to play the advocacy card any longer. He demanded that the leadership of Organized Labour in Nigeria should display the labour power in order to demonstrate its commitment to defend the rights and interests of Nigerian workers.

In his concluding remarks, the Chairman of the Summit, Senator Ken Nnamani, GCON, said that he looked forward to the recommendations from the distillation of ideas and positions canvassed at the Summit. He thanked the faculty of the Summit especially the Lead Paper Presenter and Panellist Discussants for their innovative perspectives. He also thanked the participating audience for their patience to sit through the Summit and for making worthy contributions to the debate on Overcoming the Siege of Insecurity in Nigeria especially from a Human and Physical Perspective.

By

Benson Upah

Echezona Asuzu



SGF. Mr. Boss Mustapha

IGP Solomon Arase

2ND NLC NATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY SUMMIT



L-R: SGF. Mr. Boss Mustapha, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni
Senator Ken Nnamani, GCON



L-R: SGF. Mr. Boss Mustapha, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni
Senator Ken Nnamani, GCON



cross section of some of the special guests



Some of the Attendees at the Summit



NLC Leadership Leading a Memorial Citation for Dead and Injured Workers



Some of the special guests with NLC President



Cross section of participants at the summit



Top security helmsmen at the Summit



Major General G. A. Wahab, rtd.



NEWS FROM THE AFFILIATE UNIONS



The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) declared an indefinite strike action in the month of April 2021. The strike action was to protest the refusal at different levels of government to fully implement the fiscal autonomy and independence for the Judiciary arm of government.

It would be recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari signed Executive Order 10 on May 22, 2020. The objective of the Executive Order 10, also known as the **“Implementation of Financial Autonomy of State Legislature and State Judiciary Order, 2020,”** and given as directive to the MDAs, is to enforce the implementation of the 4th Alteration to the Constitution and provide a practical framework for the legislative and judicial arms of state governments to have financial autonomy. The Executive Order 10 authorizes the Accountant-General of the Federation to deduct from source money due to the legislatures and judiciaries of states from the monthly allocations of states whose executives fail to grant financial autonomies to the other two arms of government.

JUSUN and the NLC has also kicked against the move to create State Judicial Councils. The move which has been institutionalized through a bill with the number HB. 1062 sponsored by Honourable Abbas Tajudeen representing Zaria Federal Constituency of Kaduna State and seeking a constitutional amendment to allow for establishment of State Judicial Councils, has been described by labour as an orchestrated

attempt to throw Nigerian judiciary into confusion, chaos and anarchy.

While in the struggle for the implementation of full fiscal autonomy for the judiciary arm of government, the National President of JUSUN and the National Treasurer of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Marwan Mustapha Adamu, mni survived a ghastly motor accident on the Kano-Kaduna High way. Congress President has since sent a delegation of the top leadership of the NLC to pay a solidarity visit to Comrade Marwan Mustapha Adamu at the hospital where he is currently receiving treatment from the accident. We wish our dear National Treasurer very quick and total recovery so he can continue to provide leadership in the struggle for the emancipation of Nigerian workers.





NULGE National Leadership Embarks on Nationwide Advocacy Campaign Against the Move to Scrap the Local Government System in Nigeria

The National leadership of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), led by its new President, Comrade Akeem Ambali has embarked on a nationwide advocacy and sensitization visits to key stakeholders on the recent move to scrap the local government as a tier of government in Nigeria. One of the first ports of call was to President Olusegun Obasanjo at his residence in Abeokuta.

It would be recalled that part of the bill brought by some federal legislators from Kaduna State

was the recommendation for the scrapping of the local government system. The perspective of Congress especially through the resolution of the National Executive Council of Congress at its meeting which took place on the 22nd of April 2021 is that the scrapping of local government system is would further lead to the under development of local governance in Nigeria leading to the deepening of mass poverty, destitution and insecurity all over the country.



SSUCEON Warns that 90% of President Muhammadu Buhari's Appointment Fall Below Principal Officers Requirement



The leadership of the Senior Staff Union in Colleges of Education Nigeria (SSUCEON) has called on President Muhammadu Buhari and the Minister of Education to do something drastic to redress certain infractions in the recent Principal Officers appointments in some Colleges of Education.

In a letter signed by its National President, Comrade Danladu Ali Msheliza and dated 13th April 2021, and released to the media, the union while commending President Muhammadu Buhari for approving the establishment of six new Federal Colleges of Education, called for a review of the Principal Officers appointed into the Colleges of Education most of whom the union said are from the core civil service, private sector and other sectors outside the College of

Education system.

The union said that the appointments are contrary to the provisions and requirements for the appointment of Principal Officers in Colleges of Education as contained in the Revised Conditions of Service for Colleges of Education (2015 Edition) and the Act establishing Federal Colleges of Education.



NEWS FROM STATE COUNCILS

HE Muhammadu Badaru Puts Smiles on the Faces of Jigawa State Workers



HE Alhaji Muhammadu Badaru, Governor of Jigawa State, has released over N1.4 billion for the payment of 793 retired and deceased civil servants in Jigawa State.

In a press release by the Executive Secretary of the Jigawa State and Local Government Pension Board, Alhaji Hashim Ahmed, it was revealed that the beneficiaries were drawn from the state and local government education authorities who left service by attaining the retirement age or those who died in active service.

According to the Executive Secretary, the total sum of N436,561,540.55 was earmarked for 222 retired workers in the state government while N337,744,809.35 will go to the 144 local education retired staff and N234,180,029.52 for 183 local government workers. Alhaji Hashim Ahmed also disclosed that N373,918,663.01 is earmarked for the settlement of death benefits to the families of deceased workers who died in active service.

Kaduna State Governor Inflicts Another Jab of Pain on Kaduna State Workforce through Mass Sack



We consider the recent mass sack and casualization of more than 60% of the workforce in Kaduna State as the most brutal attack on workers and trade union rights in our nation's history. Comrades, you would recall that between 2016 and this year, the Kaduna State Governor, Mr. Nasir El-Rufai sacked 21,770 primary school teachers, 7,310 local government employees, 3,000 personnel in the State Civil Service and 1,240 workers at the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Board.

In its response to the action of the Mr. Nasir El-Rufai, the Nigeria Labour Congress warned that the Kaduna State Governor was only exacerbating the crisis of insecurity in the state. The Congress through a resolution of the National Executive Council (NEC) during its meeting which took place on 22nd April 2021, stated that the actions of the Kaduna State Governor are in breach of provisions of Section 20 Sub Sections 1(a-c), 2 and 3 of Nigeria's Labour Act which demand consultation

with workers representative organizations and that redundancy benefits be agreed upon with workers representative organizations before redundancy letters are issued to workers.

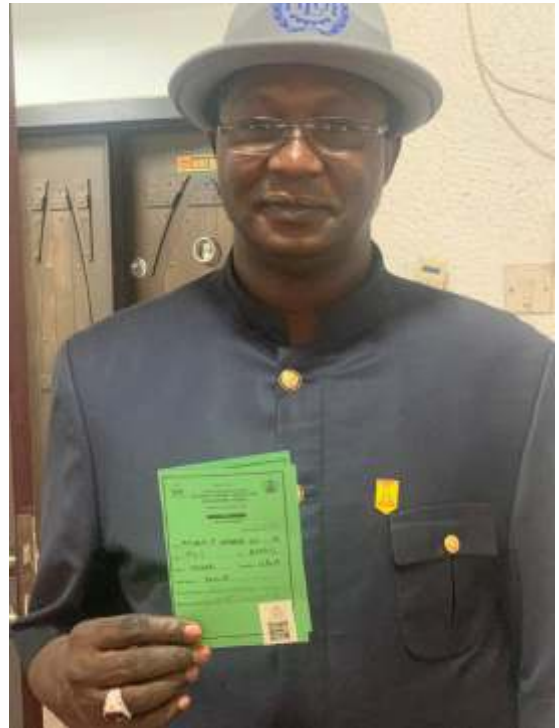
The NEC while linking the action of Mr. El-Rufai to pressure from Bretton Woods institutions whom he had borrowed humungous loans deplored the increased in the school fees in Kaduna State University by almost 500%. The NEC stated that the clear intention of the Kaduna State Governor was to leave behind a legacy of dislocation, destitution, desperation and destruction.



The Nigeria Labour Congress Leads the Way in COVID-19 Vaccination

The National President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Ayuba Wabba has led the way in the current efforts to vaccinate Nigerians of the COVID-19 disease. The vaccination initiative for Nigerian workers was coordinated by the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Chapter of the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) led by its Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the NLC Women Commission, Comrade Deborah Yusuf.

The NLC President after receiving his vaccination called on all Nigerian workers to avail themselves of the opportunity of the free vaccination to get the shot as it is aimed at ensuring the safety and health of all Nigerians especially workers. The President also commended the leadership of NANNM in the FCT for their efforts in getting the vaccination to workers. The members of the NLC Secretariat who received the vaccination were also thankful to the NANNM FCT leadership for the selfless efforts to safeguard the health of workers.





INTERNATIONAL WINDOW

BIDEN TO LAUNCH PRO UNION TASK FORCE



The announcement comes as the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which would make it easier for workers to unionize, stalls in the Senate.

President Joe Biden plans to sign an executive order creating a task force that would aim to make it easier for workers to unionize.

The team will examine existing policies and issue a series of recommendations within 180 days on how they can be leveraged to “promote worker organizing and collective bargaining in the federal government.” Biden will also direct the task force to recommend what new policies should be created.

The effort will be led by Vice President Kamala Harris and staffed by more than a dozen Cabinet secretaries, along with various agency heads.

“Since 1935, when the National Labor Relations Act was enacted, the policy of the federal government has been to encourage worker organizing and

collective bargaining, not to merely allow or tolerate them,” the administration said in a fact sheet announcing the move. “In the 86 years since the Act was passed, the federal government has never fully implemented this policy.”

“While some administrations have taken selected actions to strengthen workers' rights, no previous administration has taken a comprehensive approach to determining how the executive branch can advance worker organizing and collective bargaining.”

The task force, first reported by the New York Times, will focus in particular on facilitating collective bargaining by the federal workforce; wielding federal policies to pave the way for other workers to organize; aiding workers in “jurisdictions with restrictive labor laws,” along with “marginalized workers” like women and people of color; and increasing union membership.

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh will act as vice chair. The announcement comes as the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which would make it easier for workers to unionize, is stalled in the Senate. Despite resounding Democratic support — the House has passed the bill twice, and Biden endorsed it on the campaign trail — it has just 47 Senate backers, well short of the 60 it would need to overcome the filibuster.

With union membership sagging — [10.8 percent of workers belonged to a union in 2020](#), compared to 20.1 percent in 1983 — organized labor is seizing on the legislation as their best chance at a revival. Union officials told Senate Democrats on a private call last week that if lawmakers did not back the bill, then [they would not support them financially or otherwise](#) in upcoming elections.

In the meantime, the White House is searching for

ways it can pave the way to unionization without needing to rely on Congress. Already, Biden has jumped at [the chance to overhaul the National Labor Relations Board](#), which oversees implementation of the NLRA. He'll be able to take it a step further in August, when one of the agency's Republican members' term expires and he can appoint a Democratic majority.

Thus far, his administration has seen little to no progress. Despite historically high public support for unions and anecdotal evidence of increased union activism, there are fewer formal attempts to organize workplaces 100 days into his presidency than was the case under his two most recent predecessors.

Culled from www.politico.com/news

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TRIBUTE TO AN EXEMPLARY COMRADE AND LEADER PROFESSOR OMOTOYE OLORODE

During the years when defiant academics held sway in tertiary schools in Nigeria, there were very many "hot heads" even a

child in secondary school destined for critical learning had already been used to reading about in newspapers and possibly watched on television. There were very few newspapers and television stations then, most of them state owned.

News media organisations that were daring enough reported the public appearances of these patriots that occupied campuses across the country.

Then, the students' movement was very strong. Strong because there existed a synergy between the students and their teachers; and indeed, the working people. And the movement was driven by an ideological conviction that is pro people and strongly against neo liberal economic and social policies that were coxswained by the Bretton woods institutions.

Indeed, the movement was clear in purpose and focus and was able to resist state attack for decades until the military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida invaded the campuses with World Bank policies that decimated the quality of education and organised resistance by students and lecturers through the World Bank University Sector Loan Facilities which underlining aim was to retrench and rationalise staff of Nigerian Universities, targeting mainly radical lecturers who were accused of "teaching what they are not paid to teach".

Determined to foist anti-people policies of the Bretton Woods institutions on Nigerians, the Babangida regime banned the Academic Staff Union of Universities between 1988 and 1990 to ensure the union as well as the National Association of Nigerian Students were circumscribed in their mobilisations against the policies, especially the Structural Adjustment Programme which was mainly aimed at transferring public institutions to private hands ultimately to deepen mass poverty.

The academics refused to be confined, just as the students resisted; and decided to form the Association of University Teachers which led the anti-World Bank/International Monetary Fund struggles, after the proscription of ASUU.

Indeed, AUT, Obafemi Awolowo University Branch successfully organised and held a well-attended conference on the World Bank University Sector Loan Facilities at the OAU, Ile Ife Campus on April 20, 1990. The conference was attended by university teachers from all Nigerian universities, students, human rights activists, trade unionists, the Nigeria Bar association led by late Mr. Alao Aka-Bashorun and prominently covered and reported by both local and international news media.

The courageous leadership of the AUT at OAU then was under Professor Omotoye Olorode, who we celebrate now as one of Nigeria's best as he turns 80 years in age but not ageing enough to daunt his commitment to our collective struggles. Soon after the conference ended, a frightening coup against the Babangida regime led by Major Gideon Orkah was announced and Prof. Olorode, Dr. Idowu Awopetu as well as Obaro Ikime were arrested and detained for three months on allegations of being part of the coup. On regaining their freedom, they were dismissed from the university. Amnesty International had reported then that they were not interrogated on anything in connection with the coup but on their political views and opposition to government policies.

Professor Olorode, a Professor of Botany is a giant leader in the progressive movement in Nigeria and has been part of our collective struggles for decades and even at 80, he is still as strong, vibrant in intellect and physique as he has continued to deploy his rich intellect, organising capabilities and resources to our collective cause in and out of the academic community.

He is a key leader of the academic community who has strengthened alliances between the student movement, labour and other progressive non state actors and a foremost striking voice of the voiceless that no one can ignore.

As a leading member of the Ife Collective, the academic community related perfectly well with the students' movement which benefitted immensely from the Collective's alliance. This made the struggles of students under the auspices of NANS successful, especially in the 80s and 90s when the movement was very strong in focus and commitment.

Prof. Olorode did not only join students in protests against the repugnant Structural Adjustment Programme but also with the labour movement against removal of petroleum subsidy and other anti-people policies; providing leadership and valuable intellectual inputs to debates around the issues.

TRIBUTE TO AN EXEMPLARY COMRADE AND LEADER

PROFESSOR OMOTOYE OLORODE

Before then and during this period, every week a symposium on critical national issues will hold in most campuses where we had lecturers and clear-headed students debating on the same platforms, without mutual threats except state attacks.

This helped to strengthen the movement such that even the most docile campuses picked up in our collective agitation for good governance, not just on the campuses but more in the society in general.

When some of us who have read these events and "hot heads" in newspapers and heard them on electronic media eventually left secondary school to tertiary institutions and joined the movement, we discovered that these tough talking patriots were very humble, humane, genuinely caring but strong in conviction and focused. And behind the steadfastness of the organisations such as the National Association of Nigerian Students and the Academic Staff Union of Universities were a collective of ideologically deep, well-grounded, highly committed and selfless individuals that acted in communal manners without any primordial differences as pervades contemporary discourse and relationships in Nigeria today.

Humble, very humorous and exceptionally humane, Professor Olorode remain ageless in physique and commitment since my first meeting with him in Ife when the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, CDHR sent some of us, led by Comrade Femi Falana, SAN, to investigate the gruesome murder of some

students by a group, obviously state sponsored, in the university. We had deep discussions with our Comrades who were able to give a clear perspective of what happened. Among those we met were Professor Olorode, Dr. Idowu Awopetu and Dr. Dipo Fasina. These three, among many others, formed the fulcrum of the legendary Ife Collective, which at inception had people like Professor Segun Osoba, Dr. Seinde Arigbade who later retired to a small community to organise farmers, the subjugated and allies for our collective struggles.

The Ife Collective was clear in ideology and purpose and didn't shy away from relating strongly with campus based radical students' organisations, especially the Alliance of Progressive Students, ALPS, which harnessed all progressive students to provide leadership and focus to the struggles of the movement at Ife and also carry out national struggles as directed by the Patriotic Youth Movement of Nigeria, PYMN and driven by NANS.

Today, several decades of the struggles of Nigerian people, far beyond the struggles for justice and equity by the academics can never have a complete history without multiple mention of the unfaltering professor of Botany, who like many ideological scientists in history finds an intimate link between science and people driven change in society for the benefit of the people. Afterall, science and society are dynamic.

For us, younger people, we still learn from the humility and strong commitment of a comrade who have been deeply involved and still courageously and undauntingly leading us in the struggle, even at 80 when so many others had faltered.

Professor Omotoye Olorode remain one of the heroes of my generation and even those before and after mine. He stands tall in all our struggles.

Happy birthday to this distinguished Professor who had taught in Obafemi Awolowo University, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, University of Abuja, Olabisi Onabanjo University and others; not only teaching Botany but growing the garden of struggles.



By Denja Yaqub
is an Assistant Secretary (Industrial Relations and Organising) at the headquarters of Nigeria Labour Congress

THE PRESIDENT OF SSANU GIVES OUT THE DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE

The President of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, Comrade Ibrahim Haruna Mohammed, mni gave out his daughter, former Ms. Sakina Mohammed, in a wedding fatiha on Saturday, the 3rd of April 2021 in Yola, Adamawa State.

The event which attracted many dignitaries including the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni was an opportunity for labour leaders and other social partners to fraternize. We wish the newly married couple a blissful marriage.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GUARANTOR!



The General Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Comrade Afolabi Olawale (The Guarantor) celebrated the addition of another year to his life. We wish the Comrade GS of NUPENG many more years of service to the cause of the Nigerian workers and people.



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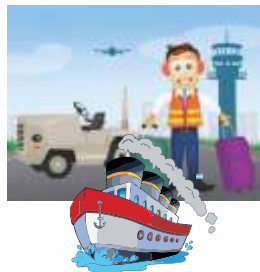


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