



Socialist Bulletin



A monthly publication from Socialist Labour

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N100

Unity and Solidarity Are Key Steps to Winning

“United we stand – divided we fall!” This is the basic call that summarises the path to successful trade union action. Strikes are more likely to be successful if they receive solidarity from other workers. Ultimately, a general strike across the whole country is most effective in achieving major success for working peoples, especially where it has mass organised support.

Unfortunately, there is not enough workers' unity in many work places. This reduces solidarity, so strikes that should have won end in defeat. The major split in many work places is between workers in different trade unions. Antagonisms between ethnic groups can also sow disunity. These differences are exploited and encouraged by the bosses and the government to weaken trade union action.

This is the reason the trade union movement is divided between two trade union centres, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC). In individual sectors, like education and health, the situation is worse with several trade unions for the different professions involved.

One of the reasons the spectacular Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike was only partially successful last year was that other trade unions within the sector did not join the lecturers. This is one of the reasons that many ASUU members are not prepared to support the current strike by their colleagues in the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU). This may be understandable, but will not assist in building unity in future. How can the government be forced to fund the universities properly if the trade unions do not work together?

Unfortunately, this split is mirrored in the health sector. Here there is a divide between the doctors and other workers. At least the other workers' trade unions are united within the Joint Health Sector Unions (JOHESU).

Last year there were several strikes by doctors and a seven-day warning strike by the JOHESU trade unions in September. Again, the government is more likely to be forced to fund the sector properly if the trade unions work together. This lack of trade union unity is having a deadly impact. We suffer higher rates of mortality from common diseases like malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia, even compared to other African countries, due to the relatively low funding of the health sector.

The current rise in ethnic chauvinism is another terrible division that can greatly weaken working class unity and solidarity. Poverty cuts across all ethnic groups – the major division in society is between the majority and the corrupt elite, the bosses.

Many states are still to introduce the minimum wage and consequent adjustments, an increase passed into law in 2019. We need solidarity across the country to change this situation. Socialists and trade unionists need to do everything we can to reduce such divisions – we have so much to gain by standing together and providing solidarity against the government and the bosses.

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NASU and SSANU strikes in Ibadan Poly and nationally

By Femi Aborisade

The NASU and SSANU members have been on strike in The Polytechnic, Ibadan and indeed, nationally.



Socialist Bulletin brings an update of these strikes which were still work in progress as we went to press.

NASU and SSANU Leaderships Direct Members to Vote On Whether or Not to Call Off Strike

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) has directed that the rank and file members in the various local branches should convene membership meetings to consider offers by the Federal Government and to resolve whether or not

the strike should be called off. However, the offers by the Federal Government were not publicly disclosed. Although this has been disclosed to union members. The meetings were directed to be held on Friday, 19th February and the outcome should be communicated to the leadership on the night of 19th February 2021. The results will only be known after this issue of *Socialist Bulletin* goes to press.

Based on the resolution of the members nationwide, both NASU and SSANU had embarked on strike since 5th February 2021 after the lapse of a 2-week ultimatum issued on 22nd January 2021.

The demands of the unions include:

1. the resolution of the inconsistencies in the implementation of the Integrated Personnel Payroll and Information System (IPPIS)
2. payment of earned allowances that remain unpaid
3. payment of arrears of the national minimum wage
4. fast-tracking the renegotiation of the NASU and SSANU 2009 agreement with the Federal Government
5. payment of retirement benefits to retired members
6. an end to the neglect and poor funding of state universities
7. Federal Government to honour the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on October 20, 2020
8. allocation of N30bn to ASUU out of the N40bn released by the Federal Government for the payment of Earned Allowances.

While *Socialist Labour* supports the demands of NASU and SSANU, we advise that the unions should insist on their demands being met by the Federal Government without engaging in comparative analysis with what is being allocated to ASUU. Every union should insist that its legitimate demands are met. We should avoid divisive arguments, which may hinder future solidarity actions. We need all trade unions in the tertiary education sector to work together, co-operate and, at least provide solidarity with each other's disputes if these are to be successful.

Ibadan Poly Workers Suspend Strike Action

Members of the non-academic staff unions in The Polytechnic, Ibadan have suspended their strike, which started on 11th January 2021. The workers are expected to resume work on Monday, 22nd February 2021. By a letter dated 2nd February 2021, signed by comrades Biodun Abegunde and Ibraheem Akande, the leaders of NASU and SSANU at the institution, the two key demands of the workers were:

1. Capturing of 50% of monthly basic salary as rent subsidy, and
2. A review of "the killing tax (Pay as you Earn)" which is "outrageous and it is markedly different from what is being charged in other institutions of comparable status in the State".

While the State Government and management argue that rent is already consolidated in the salary structure being implemented, it does not appear that the State Government has any defence to the issue of the "killing tax".

Addressing the Snowballing 'Herders – Farmers Conflicts'

Jaye Gaskia



An adequate and thorough tackling of this crisis needs to build peace, reinforce inter-communal confidence and trust; and ensure development is centred on poor peoples. This process should be guided by the following principles which may include significant challenges and problems. These are complex issues, there are no easy answers:

Address Criminality: Criminals should be

identified, arrested and prosecuted. Measures must be put in place to enhance the safety and security of persons, communities, their properties and their livelihoods – on both sides. Inter-communal and inter-agency coordination structures, systems and mechanisms are needed – for confidence and trust building. Efforts to achieve peace and inter-community cohesion and trust will be essential this will include addressing long-standing feuds and grudges.

Ensure Justice: People have been killed, many persons have suffered injuries, communities have been attacked, people have been displaced, properties have been destroyed, and livelihoods have been lost. A system for identifying victims, for verifying claims, and for addressing justice issues including compensations must be put in place. And as this crisis is very evidently the result of the inability of the state to protect citizens and ensure their wellbeing, the state must bear the responsibility for compensating and rehabilitating victims, and resettling and rebuilding destroyed communities.

Avoid Ethnicisation: There is an urgent need to eschew ethnicisation of the crisis, to avoid labelling, tagging or stereotyping entire ethnic groups as criminals. Ethnic groups are not criminals, even though there maybe, and there often are, criminals and outlaws in every ethnic group. The same is true of religion and faith. No ethnic group or religion should be criminalized.

Farming and Cattle Breeding are Agricultural Livelihoods Systems: It is important to recognize that both sedentary farming and cattle breeding are livelihoods systems. Action is needed to support the improvement and transformation of these livelihoods systems, towards ensuring not only increased prosperity and improved incomes for their practitioners, but also harmonious coexistence and mutually beneficial interdependence between all communities.

Transitioning From Pastoralism to Sedentary Cattle Breeding [Ranching]: Part of the solution will probably require the approach to cattle herding to be changed, just as the approach to farming is being improved. Central to this will probably be the transition from nomadism to settled sedentary cattle breeding. But this transition will not happen overnight, nor will it occur automatically. This transition will have to be planned, managed and deliberately supported with significant public investments and the direct agreement of the herders and other communities.

Supporting The Transition To Ranching: Just as there are support mechanisms in place – both public and private - for farming, enabling the transformation and improvement of farming, so should there be for cattle breeding as well. These support measures must be such that they can facilitate access to affordable funding, as well as access to agricultural inputs including land and facilities that support improved and enhanced cattle breeding practices. Furthermore, these measures will have to be such that they incentivise and facilitate the transition to ranching and support poorer and the less enabled and endowed herders to cooperativise their holdings and practice cooperative ranching approaches.

Safeguarding Against Land-grabbing: Mechanisms must be put in place to avoid land-grabbing by urban or rural elites. Otherwise, powerful elements will pick up designated lands, force small holder farmers off the land, and compel small holder herders to give up their herds. Crop farmers and in particular small holder farmers, in communities hosting land designated for ranching, should receive a package of support for the development of their farms. No one segment of the community should be left behind, all groups must be consulted and involved in the decision making and implementation processes.

Coordinated and Timed Transition: This transition and the enabling mechanisms will have to be planned coordinated and synergized to ensure success. There must be deliberate public investment initiatives to drive the process. The Bank of Agriculture, Bank of Industry and the Development Bank, will need to be restructured to ensure that departments and technical teams are established to manage disbursement of support for agricultural improvements. An initial five-year transition period can be considered, subject to a further additional five-year period to complete the transition.

The Journey in the Cause of Nigeria's Underdevelopment

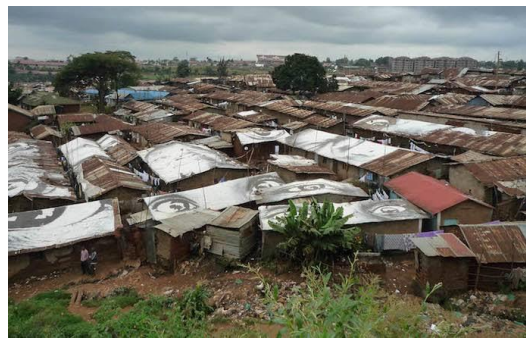
Biodun Olamosu

In tracing the modern history of Nigeria starting from the early colonial period (1860's), it was one of forceful domination by the capitalists and British imperialism. So the resources and the people were to be utilized by British companies. The organised business, agriculture, commerce, industry were to serve colonist interests. Limited education was introduced in order to train some clerks and junior officials in basic numeracy and literacy. This was to enable them to function in the lower levels of the hierarchy of the colonial administration.

The main stay of the economy then was agriculture. The colonial government placed priority on the production of cash crops for export to Britain, over food for local people. Such crops were to be produced and exported as raw materials. They would then be transformed into finished products, in Britain, to be sold at higher prices. An example is oil palm that was processed into oil that was used widely as a lubricant in the factories of the industrial revolution.

Beyond agricultural products, minerals including gold, silver, iron ore, coal, and later, crude oil, were available in commercial quantities. This influenced the pattern of the rail network that stretched from Ibadan, Enugu, Jos, Minna, Zungeru and Kano to the key ports of Lagos and Port Harcourt.

People were encouraged or sometimes forced to embrace employment in the private and public sectors – often to pay taxes levied by the colonial government. This revenue was then used to pay for post offices, hospitals, schools and other developments. The balanced budget was an important principal of imperial government – colonies were expected to fund their own development.



Increasingly workers formed trade unions to protect their class interests. The trade union movement occupied an invaluable position as a force to challenge the colonial interests. Before the end of the 19th century, the crisis of capitalism became an open sore leading to chaos.

The international working class and the poor in the colonies were at the receiving end of the extant exploitation and oppression. Titanic struggles resulted in the emergence of the Russian Revolution in 1917, the first socialist revolutionary working class government in human history. By this, history proved that another world is possible. The success recorded in this regard also helped

in reinforcing the struggle in other advanced capitalist countries especially in Germany, France, Spain and in the colonies in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Many of the African countries achieved political independence in the 1960s as a result of the tumultuous struggle against colonial rule for self determination. What actually changed with independence?

The new ruling elite that emerged after independence were produced from the womb of the colonial social relations. So, not surprisingly, it stood for the same interests and aspirations of class domination in favour of capitalism. They could not think beyond the box of associating development within the prism of having foreign investment as means of development.

Before Nigerian independence, welfarism and state capitalism became the norm in greater parts of the world. So the Nigerian ruling elite built on the limited welfare state, but ensured that the country remained friendly to foreign and a few local companies. This included increasing educational facilities, better health facilities as well as efforts at industrialization (import substitution industries).

This could not last due to the primitive accumulation of capital, corruption, the anarchical nature of the system, poor pay and impoverishment of the working people that made demand in the local economy very low.

This was made worse in the mid-1980s with indebtedness to foreign creditors and skyrocketing unemployment. Despite the huge resources realized from oil, the situation did not change much for most people due to the dominance of capitalist social relations.

With the elections by 1980 of Ronald Regan in the US and Maggie Thatcher in Britain, neoliberal ideas were introduced across the world, with the help of the World Bank and the IMF, especially in Africa. This change

increased with the fall of the state capitalist regimes in Russia and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s.

The policy of neoliberalism was introduced in order to intensify the accumulation of wealth by the ruling class. The policy plank of neoliberalism includes liberalisation, privatisation, commercialization, deregulation and devaluation. This policy that represents the opposite of the hitherto policy of welfarism and state capitalism can best be described as a naked variant of capitalism opposed to the interests of the working people.

The resultant effect of the policy is to make some few people extremely rich while life becomes difficult for some others in terms of unemployment, poverty, insecurity, disease and debt burden. In a way this is a reversal of the gains of the past period under welfarist regime.

Neoliberalism is still the dominant policy in Nigeria today, with, for example, privatization of NEPA, deregulation of the industry with increasing prices and devaluation of the naira making all imports more expensive.

On the other side - Ipogah Michael

On the other side
Nothing is as gloomy
As unrepentant critics portray
There is abundance of hope
That the scales on vision
Blind
All is well
On this side
Where we rule.
Still wondering
Why
Many
See otherwise.
Can't you see
The achievements by numbers?
Oh
The glamorous painting of our development
Only
On the soap box.
We on the other side
See
The present
And future nation
Gallantly strong.
We can not
Help but wonder
Why
All you see
Is
A vision less leadership
Poor infrastructure
Insecurity
Unemployment
Poverty
Suffering
Tension
Educational backwardness
Nepotism
Bigotry
And disunity.

Dear
On this side
We are moving forward
It is not as you think
Or see.
It is coolly different here.
My brother/sister
I urge you
To wait a little
Who knows?
When you
Join us on this side
You might begin
To see things differently
Not really as you think
They are.

©Ipogah Michael Iroboodu,

Owode Ota Community protest against IBEDC over estimated billings By Bashirat Ogunlana



The people of Owode Ota Community, Ogun State took their protests against IBEDC to another level as they rejected the January estimated billings. They returned their gathered bills on 19th of Feb, 2021 and told the IBEDC officials to make prepaid meters available for the people

History of Women's Oppression – Tina Ndi

Women's oppression is the most deeply entrenched oppression. It is seen as biological, psychological, universal and age-old. This view influences how we understand and fight for equal rights for all women. Marxists approach this subject from a materialist perspective. Frederick Engels (the close friend and supporter of Karl Marx) explained:



According to the materialist conception, the determining factor in history is the production and reproduction of immediate life... On the one side, the production of the means of existence, of food, clothing and shelter and the tools necessary for that production. On the other side, the production of human beings themselves, the propagation of the species.

Human beings interact with their environment, changing the world around them and in the process changing

themselves. The thing that makes us different from other animals is our ability to consciously harness nature and the ways in which we can plan and work together socially to meet our needs.

Engels argued that for most of human history the social organisation of people has not been class-ridden nor defined by domination and oppression. Our earliest human ancestors appeared about two million years ago, while our species, Homo sapiens has existed for about 200,000 years. But the earliest forms of agriculture, that allowed the possibility of significant inequality and class societies, only appeared about 10,000 years ago.

So for at least 95 percent of human history, "wealth" was not a concept that would have made any sense. People lived in small collective groups enjoying relative equality both in terms of wealth and power (and this broadly continued in some parts of Nigeria, for example in some areas of Igboland, until the arrival of the colonialists in the late 19th Century). Engels referred to this type of society as "primitive communism". The concept of the nuclear family, with parents married for life and 'owning' their children, did not exist.

Engels contended that in these societies, while people played different roles, there was no structured domination of one group (gender or class) by another. Under primitive communism there was a division of labour between men and women, but this did not confer any significant privileges to men. Women, who tended to be the main gatherers, were often given authority over men—because their work provided the main source of nutrition for the group and it was women that gave birth to new members of the society.

It was only with the rise of class societies that women came to occupy an inferior place in society. In some places, for example, in the Benin Empire this happened from around 1500, in other parts of Nigeria women's oppression, in the modern sense of the word, did not start until the arrival of the colonialists in the nineteenth century.

The development of more advanced agriculture was the turning point. Heavy ploughing and the widespread use of domesticated animals changed the position of women. The adoption of the plough gave the ability to produce more than was immediately needed by the group. It led to the development of elites who were able to control the "surplus" (especially in areas of high population density like much of southern Nigeria, where families could not just leave and establish another village in the empty land of the next valley or across the river).

A pregnant woman or one with small children could not easily plough fields or tend domestic cattle, sheep or goats., These tasks increasingly became the responsibility of men. Agriculture also demanded labourers. Where hunter-gatherer societies had tended to limit the number of children so as not to deplete resources, agriculture could be more productive with more children needed to help in the fields. As men became

mainly responsible for agricultural production, women saw their primary role shift to that of child bearing, cooking and looking after the children and the home.

Greater productivity benefited every member of the group. But once the surplus fell into the control of a minority, inequalities and class societies began to form.

One consequence was the division of society into "public" and "private" spheres—with women operating mainly in the "private" sphere. The private family became the mechanism by which private wealth could be passed on from one generation to the next. This entailed a final degradation of women's influence. Men, because of their economic role, became heads of the household, passing their wealth on to their sons (so they had to be sure that these could be identified). As Engels wrote:

The overthrow of mother right was the world historic defeat of the female sex. The man took command in the home also. The woman was degraded and reduced to servitude.

So the family that we know was a consequence of the development of class— not an age-old "natural" hierarchy. As production was increasingly geared to buying and selling rather than use, the household became a unit of consumption rather than production. Engels's argument shows how it was economic compulsion that led to class society and the associated inequality and oppression. However, with the wider social and economic changes throughout history, the role of the family also changed.

What Can We learn from The Experience of Four West African "Democratic" Socialist Presidents? - Drew Povey

Four West African heads of state (Gbagbo - Côte d'Ivoire, Alpha Conde - Guinea, Issoufou - Niger, IBK - Mali) were members of the *Socialist International*. They totally failed in their futile attempts at democratization – leave aside any attempt to bring about fairer societies.

The *Socialist International* is the international of 'democratic' socialists like ex-prime minister of Britain, Tony Blair, and the ex-president of France, François Hollande. These leaders accepted neoliberalism and they left their countries more unequal than they found them. The experience of their "comrades" in West Africa has been even more disastrous.



Presidents Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger and François Hollande Meet

In 2000, Laurent Gbagbo, was the first of four African leaders of the *Socialist International* to become a president. His ten years in power were not the best for the poor of Côte d'Ivoire. Between populism and the armed rebellion of 2002, "Comrade Laurent", as he was called in the *Socialist International*, did not deliver on the hopes raised by his arrival.

Against expectations, "Comrade Laurent" had the best of relations with French and international capital. And yet, it was this same France that in 2011 gave decisive military support to the rebellion to take the presidential palace and arrest Gbagbo. He thus passed from the gold of the republic to the irons of detention for eight years (2011-2019) in the prison of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands.

In Guinea, a neighbour of Côte d'Ivoire, Alpha Condé, another prominent member of the *Socialist International*, became president in 2010. He had been a long-term opponent of the existing power in the country. But his two terms (2010-2020) did not meet the expectations of poor Guineans. In addition to the economic failure, Alpha did not succeed in cleaning up the mafia of the allocation of mining permits, individual freedoms experienced a great decline between 2010 and 2020. At least one hundred people

were killed in the same period by Guinean security forces as part of so called "peacekeeping" operations. Four opposition activists died in detention between December 2020 and January 2021.

At the end of his first two terms, "Comrade" Alpha embarked on an adventure of constitutional change which he imposed at the cost of some 40 deaths. He was sworn in for this third term of six years in Conakry in December 2020 at the age of 82 years.

When two "comrades" meet

Less than a year after Alpha Condé, Mahamadou Issoufou came to power in 2011 in Niger. In addition to being members of the *Socialist International*, "Comrades" Alpha and Issoufou were both very close to François Hollande, leader of the French Socialist Party and President of France from 2012 to 2017. Mahamadou Issoufou will step down from power in April 2021, having achieved little for the poor of Niger. During his ten years in power, Niger has consistently been bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) rankings. Insecurity has worsened with three out of eight regions placed under a state of emergency. Corruption is at its height, as evidenced by the scandal of the embezzlement of more than 53 billion naira in the Department of Defence. There has also been repression of civil society, persecution of journalists and criminalization of any political opposition.

Finally, in Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK), came to power in 2013 and was sworn in under the watchful eye of his friend François Hollande.

The former leader of the Federation of Students of Black Africa (FEANF) installed a heritage system in the heart of Malian power, involving his son Karim Keita, his nephews and his brothers-in-law. He brought corruption and the embezzlement of public funds to a zenith: between 2012 and 2017 no less than 450 billion naira was embezzled in Mali, according to a Canadian NGO. IBK bought a presidential plane in 2014 for nearly 15 billion naira. His regime ultimately ended with a military coup in August, 2020.

With the test of power, the "African socialists" of the *Socialist International* did not shine: Gbagbo and IBK were driven out by armed intervention; Alpha confiscated democracy to win a third term; Issoufou leaves a very meagre legacy to his successor who will be known in February 2021.

The legacy of these four West African presidents shows in practice that this approach of so called "democratic" socialism is not successful. *Socialist Labour* seeks an alternative based on the direct involvement of working peoples using their economic power through strikes and other protests to bring about fairer and more democratic societies. We believe that these will require fundamental change, including the democratic control and management of nationalised economies.

Strikes in January and February 2021

NLC directs strikes in half the states over minimum wage implementation.

The National Executive Council of the NLC on Wednesday, 17th February "directed all states where the national minimum wage of N30,000 is yet to be paid to immediately proceed on industrial action." The NEC viewed "the refusal to pay the new national minimum wage by state governments... as an act of criminality, betrayal of the oath of office sworn by state chief executives and a dangerous adventure in anarchy." The states to go on strike include Imo, Rivers, Osun, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Kwara, Zamfara, Gombe, Rivers and Ogun States.

The NEC also indicated its opposition to further fuel price increases and demanded a reduction in the price of electricity. It also tasked the federal government to live up to its constitutional responsibility of protecting lives and property. The union resolved to picket the Corporate Affairs Commission headquarters for three days for allegedly trampling on workers' rights.

Joint Committee of the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) started an indefinite strike from Friday 5th February. This is over the failure of the Federal Government to address any of the issues contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reached by both parties signed in October 2020. Issues also include the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information

System (IPPIS), sharing formula of the N40bn earned academic allowances and non-payment of arrears of the new minimum wage, among others. Reports indicate the strike impacted at UniAbua, Federal University of Technology, LASU, Owerri, University of Ilorin (where seven local officials of SSANU were arrested by DSS) and others.

Plateau teachers strike from December due to non-payment of salaries. Protests were held in Jos and all the 17 local government areas on 2nd December by teachers and local government workers over the failure to implement the minimum wage and payment of half salaries of teachers for the last nine years. Strike notice given to begin on 2nd December. The protests continued after the holiday from Monday, 4th January, 2021.

Abia State NUT primary and secondary teachers were on strike from 11th January 2021 over salary arrears of 12 to 15 months. The national NUT said action was being taken against states that had refused to implement the new minimum wage and owing teachers, starting with Abia State.



Students of Olanada Secondary School, Port Harcourt protest on Monday 15th February over the shortage of teachers. They had seen no new teachers for six years. The Governor had failed in his 2019 promise to recruit 10,000 more teachers.

Students cause traffic gridlock along Rumuola Road, Port Harcourt.

University of Abuja Students protested on 1st February against the increase in student fees. They were met with tear gas from the security forces.

Health workers in Bayelsa State members of Medical and Health Workers' Union of Nigeria (MHUN) started an indefinite strike from Friday (12th February) over non-implementation of the minimum wage and up to 15 months' arrears of salary and promotions. Primary health centres are closed.

Picketing of Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Co by members of the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) at the company headquarters in each of the four states on Tuesday, 27th January and at their main offices in Port Harcourt on Wednesday. This was over retrenchment of about 70 workers at the end of the year without notice. A strike was largely undermined by management intimidation. PHED covers Akwa Bom, Bayelsa, Cross River and Rivers states. Negotiations were held between the management, DSS and labour. A committee was established to review the retrenchments and consider those eligible for recall or their gratuity. This may report in two weeks' time. Senior staff who were retrenched accepted their gratuity.

Workers of the Water Corporation of Oyo State under the aegis of Amalgamated Union of Public Corporations, Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees (AUPCTRE), embarked on an indefinite strike on Monday 25th January. The state government failed to pay the six months' deductions owed. The union also demanded safety of life and property of the Water Corporation, an increment in monthly subvention, supply of chemicals to the Corporation, recruitment of workers and appointment of substantive General Manager for the organisation. The workers again blocked all entrances to the secretariat complex on Monday 15th February. Although the trade union suspended the strike from the same day as the state government had agreed to pay outstanding deductions.

A State Executive Committee meeting of the **Ondo State chapter of Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives, NANNM,** ended abruptly, 9th February, as nurses chased away their union leaders over payment of 50 per cent salary for November to January. Efforts by the aggrieved nurses to make their leaders declare a strike unfortunately failed. The placards displayed by the aggrieved nurses had inscriptions such as

“Represent us or we'll leave”, “We move out of JOHESU”, “Serve us well to serve the community well”, “Nurses have the largest number in the health sector. We can stand alone.”

Ondo State doctors started an indefinite strike on 1st February over half salary regime since November 2020, unpaid 3 months' salary and poor working conditions. The doctors are also demanding the appointment of more doctors to replace those that left, implementation of Group Life Insurance, an end to half salary regime and improvement in the working conditions. This is under the auspices of Ondo Government Doctors Forum (OGDF). The strike was still solid after two weeks.



Magistrates strike in Cross River

The Cross River State government has ordered 30 magistrates in the state who recently protested the non-payment of their salaries for two years to stop work.

The magistrates on Monday, 4th January, marched on the road, carrying placards, and demanding their salaries. The protests continued on the second day:

Internationally

Mali - Eight teaching unions declared a two week strike on January 21. They are demanding the government honour a pledge made in January 2019 to raise public salaries by 20% according to Adama Fomba, a union leader. That pledge also foresaw another 9-percent salary bump in 2021.

If you would like to join Socialist Labour, then please submit the following details:

Name:

Email:

WhatsApp number:

Workplace address/university/school:

Trade union:

State:

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