



# Socialist Bulletin



*A monthly publication from Socialist Labour*

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N100

## National Cry of Marginalization by Poverty

National Bureau of Statistics said that 40% of the population existed below the poverty line in late 2019. Nigeria was already the poverty capital of the world, with more children out of school and the highest level of homes without access to any electricity.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic with the lockdowns hit. At its worst, severe hunger affected 60% of households. Even by the end of last year over half of households had skipped a meal in the last month.

Two thirds of households reported lower incomes last year. Formal unemployment increased and less than half of the labour force were fully employed in the fourth quarter of last year. Food inflation hit a 15-year high earlier this year.

President Muhammadu Buhari claimed recently that his government had lifted 10.5 million Nigerians out of poverty in the last two years. Three days later, the World Bank said that inflation alone had pushed seven million into poverty during last year.

The minimum wage was increased to N18,000 in 2011, another increase was due in 2016. The increase to N30,000 became law in April 2019 (three years late) and it has yet to be implemented in at least 10 states.

A further five-year increase of the minimum wage is due this year. Officially food price inflation has been 365% since 2011 so the minimum wage would have to increase to at least N65,000 to maintain the same buying power that it had a decade ago.

Many local government workers and middle ranking civil servants have not had an increase in their salaries for the last decade. As a result, they have suffered a huge reduction in their standards of living. They can now only buy around one bag of rice or bottle of kerosene for every four that they could buy in 2011.

*“We no longer feel safe to be part of a country where inequality, inequity and nepotism and impunity have become defining principles of governance.”*

*President of Ijaw National Congress, INC, Professor Benjamin Okaba*

The Human Rights Measurement Initiative recently reported that Nigeria was below the average for sub-Saharan Africa for human rights to food, health, housing and work. These have been devastated due looting, inequality and poverty.

Most people have suffered a major cut in their standard of living for the poor this has been devastating, especially over the last year. According to the World Bank, “these factors [unemployment and inflation] have greatly incentivised crime as a means of earning income and made participation in an insurgent movement a more viable alternative to conventional employment.” Buhari in his Democracy Day speech also acknowledged that poverty and unemployment were the cause of insecurity.

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join the resistance

## An Appeal to Join the Peoples Alternative Political Movement [TPAP-M] – Jaye Gaskiya

We must not only organise and mobilise ourselves by articulating what we are against, our organising and mobilising must also be based on a comprehensive articulation of what we are for. Yes we must know what we are against, but we must also know what we are for.

We must not only *oppose*, we must also *propose*. And if we are to Take Back Our Country, and Reclaim Our Humanity, then we must go beyond organising protests and shouting slogans, we must begin to organise and mobilise to build a Mass Political Movement, with a well-articulated program of action, not only aimed at ensuring a successful challenge of bad governance, but also more decisively aimed at outlining our vision for a new society.

We must develop a program of action to enable the political movement take political power, as well as one that will state clearly our pathway to rebuilding our society once we are in power.

We must be imbued with the understanding that though civil society activism is important, it is not

self-sufficient; everyone active in civil society must understand that we need to urgently move beyond the narrow-minded need to single focused induced competition and mutually exclusive agitations for percentage allocation to competing sectors; and move to build the movement that understands that as citizens we first need to gain 100% control and ownership of our resources and budgets, so that we can then allocate them within a comprehensive and integral plan to the different sectors of our economy to rebuild different segments of our lives.

What we require now more than ever is an all-embracing movement that enables us all to see the bigger picture, which ensures that we are not dissipating energy agitating competitively for percentage slices of the economy.

This is why we must all redouble our commitments and our efforts towards building our emergent new political movement – **The**

**The People's Alternative Political Movement (TPAP-MOVEMENT)**

**Theme:**  
**A NEW NIGERIA IS POSSIBLE:  
CONVERSATION BETWEEN  
TPAP MOVEMENT & THE  
WORKING PEOPLE.**

Meet the Working People Town Hall Meetings/Forums  
in LGAs, Cities, and Towns across Nigeria.  
Date: 11th June 2021-5th August 2021

To Participate please Call or Email us on:  
tpapsnigeria@gmail.com; 09153684686

*A New Nigeria is Possible!!!*

### **Peoples Alternative Political Movement [TPAP-M].**

We appeal to all members and supporters of *Socialist Labour* and readers of this *Socialist Bulletin* to join us in this task.

To become a Member, or better an Organiser of the Movement, then share your contact details, including your location with us through: [tpapsnigeria@gmail.com](mailto:tpapsnigeria@gmail.com) and/or 09153684686 or you can follow this link and fill our membership form <https://forms.gle/Paa6BWhkfEPjLEc6A> or fill our membership form on our website <https://thepeoplesummit.org>

# States have plenty of money!

The Federal and State Governments now have plenty of money. The international price of crude oil is now well above \$70 a barrel. This is 75% above the benchmark price for the Federal Government and most states that was set at \$40 in their 2021 budgets.

In addition, the naira was devalued again in mid-May. This means that the monthly FAAC allocations are now another 8.5% higher in naira terms.

State governors are proudly choosing to spend money on contracts rather than, in many cases, paying salaries. Governors get their 10% or more cut from these contracts. They do not gain personally from paying their workers their due salaries or pensions.

Similarly, internally generated revenue is also higher than last year as the lockdowns have now stopped. Governors should stop lying and pay their workers' salaries - and stop all retrenchments!! If they have not fully implemented the N30,000 minimum wage they have been operating illegally since it was accented to by the President in April 2019.

According to the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) ten states have yet to fully implement the minimum wage: Imo, Benue, Anambra, Kano, Bauchi, Kebbi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara. To these we can also add Kaduna and the FCT. However, the resident doctors(NARD) claim their members have only received the increment in five states.

The key public sector trades unions especially ASCSN, NCSU, MHWUN, NULGE, AUPCTRE, and NUT need to be taking action in these states to protect the standards of living of their members. NLC and sometimes TUC have taken some action in Taraba (March), Kaduna (May), Nasarawa (June), but far more action is needed.

## **JUNE 12: THE PULVERIZATION OF ITS POTENCY BY THE ROTTEN RULING CLASS – Salishu N. Mohamed**

June 12, is no longer an ordinary day, in our troubled nation's crowded calendar. Against all the odds, it has manifestly become an "abikuian", a metaphor, for the popular street salvos that heralded the end of military rule.

Today, nearly a whole generation has elapsed since June 12th, 1993. That was the historic time and space when the then IBB (Babangida) military junta, hideously unleashed some powerful destabilizing storms on our then politically vibrant and economically viable nation. This was through the undisguised self-serving annulment of what was generally perceived, and even now is widely believed, to be the most credible, peaceful and orderly democratic elections ever held.

June 12, is a battle cry for democracy, justice and prosperity. It clearly has its strong roots deeply buried in the bowels of the magnetic national appeal of the late MKO Abiola. This was based on his simple electoral campaign promises to the masses, which caught their imagination with its simple message of "farewell to poverty".

The brilliant and masterly political mobilization and propaganda tools were fully employed by MKO Abiola's intimidating presidential campaign. It was professionally designed and packaged to craftily and consciously attract the poor people's groundswell of social discontent. The background was a palpable maelstrom of popular anger against the growing undemocratic consequences of military dictatorship and rampant poverty.

A large section of the political elite strongly suspected the ruling military junta had recruited two of their most trusted friends and business allies. These were Alh. Bashir Tofa, as the presidential candidate of the National Republican Convention, and Chief MKO Abiola, as the presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party.

**#jointheresistance**

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But then the Abiola's presidential campaign machine became seemingly unstoppable. Wanting to desperately and purposely truncate the transition and enable the military junta to cling to power; suddenly and inexorably, they found themselves in an exasperating state of psychological and political panic.

The culmination of this desperate political debauchery was the resounding democratic victory that eventually was to see the detested military frantically being dislodged from its dictatorial mantle of power. But this victory was drowned in blood as the military crushed the uprising against the annulment of the election. The crushing of the #EndSARS protests and resulting popular looting of warehouse-houses brought back these memories for the older generations.

But, ever since that time, the spectre of June 12 rather continues unabated to haunt both the right and the left of the political power divide.

Always consumed by the mortal fear of the inherent democratic potency that the June 12 symbolizes, the conservative and reactionary ruling classes have been relentless in their efforts to empty the democratic halo of June 12 of its notable emancipatory contents.

This no doubt explains the ongoing opportunistic reinvention and rebranding of June 12 by Buhari's backward looking government – whilst unleashing military junta style repression on any type of protest. The obvious and nefarious aim is to sensationally sedate and sequester the emancipatory potency of June 12 to a permanent state of political stupor. Needless to say that in this wise, Buhari's vision on June 12, coincides with the aspirations of the entire ruling class.

Unfortunately and regrettably, we have to also admit that the resplendent political promises and the democratic potentials harbingered by the epic battles of workers and a large section of the popular forces in defence of June 12, were fastidiously dissipated and hopelessly allowed to be dispersed. The LEFT has largely failed to educate and mobilise workers and the wider popular classes to use the June 12 legacy to confront the rotten ruling class and dislodge them from power. This is a problem we have yet to address and we need you to join us in this process.

## **My experience on the Campaign against Insecurity protest in Abuja – Charles Olalekan**

I picked a taxi to Unity Fountain from Court of Appeal, I got there around 9:15 thereabout. On getting there, I observed from the ending of the Unity Fountain that other fellow comrades were not there, but I saw police vehicles. As the driver was about to park for me to alight, behold, there was a heavy presence of armed police officers in their numbers, just where I wanted to alight.

With instinct, I quickly told the driver not to stop. We stopped at Transcorp Junction and I saw comrades that I could recognise running, some on foot, some with cars. Truly I was scared, because I was with the Socialist Labour banner and papers. I crossed the junction, took a taxi through another route back to Central Area.

It is quite unfortunate that government will use its security forces to crackdown a peaceful protest but can't use the same security forces to protect lives and property.

It is imperative that we seek the support of organised labour movement in this country whenever we want to embark on a protest like this. There is power in huge numbers. It is much easier to repress a handful. Hundreds and thousands of workers and civil society organization members is a real challenge.

**Protests were also held on Democracy Day in Abeokuta, Ado Ekiti, Akure, Benin City, Calabar, Ibadan, Ilorin, Kano, Lagos and Osogbo. The protests in Ibadan and Akure were the best. The security forces attacked and tear gassed the protests in Lagos and Abuja. 20 were arrested in Lagos and four in Calabar. Thankfully they were all released the same day.**

## Unpicking Sankara's elusive socialism – Leo Zeilig

A popular coup d'état led by Captain Thomas Sankara made him President of, what was then called Upper Volta, on August 4, 1983. He was only 33 years old. Four years later he was assassinated.

Thomas Sankara's project for the country he renamed Burkina Faso was state-led development to benefit the poor, as part of a transition to socialism – though a socialism that remained almost completely absent in his official speeches and declarations. Carried out by a military hierarchy and an even smaller political cadre around Sankara, the project was inherently elitist. This is not a criticism, but rather a sad description.

The story of Sankara's rule in a small West African country is one of hope that another world is possible. But it is also one of absences – of other social forces, of radical left organisations, of a social base that could have sustained his project. The presence of an ideological and organisational centre for the radical left, in Burkina Faso and the region, could have ensured the permanence of a 'project' of development of the people as part of a radicalising movement – powered by the popular classes – across West Africa and the continent. This could have developed as a practical and realistic alternative.

Almost a hundred years ago, many of these questions were being posed in practice in the struggle for democratic transformation and socialism in Russia. This experience spoke of *linking* democratic and socialist transformation inside a single process that had to be international. The international development of socialist politics in the early 20th century sought to build the capacity for such linking, which would ensure that movements within the nation state could survive – could literally grow over the barriers of the national state.

Underpinning these ideas was the understanding that national autonomy was a reactionary, impossible pipedream, and economic evolution – a process that today we describe as globalisation – had broken apart the fragile edifice of the nation state. The era of permanent social transformation as a practical and *realistic* project of socialist development is the path we must take.

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The full version of this article is available from the Socialist Labour website:

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2021/05/28/unpicking-sankaras-elusive-socialism/>

If you missed our public meeting on "Thomas Sankara - dare to invent the future", click the link below to watch the recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/JDkpt\\_XgCLP8U\\_ielFzwlr\\_jpHQuuK8AexDHZLNBiZQiagF31jldnP-lzIMYtETs5.ijZF8ZXk-okRLVUU](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/JDkpt_XgCLP8U_ielFzwlr_jpHQuuK8AexDHZLNBiZQiagF31jldnP-lzIMYtETs5.ijZF8ZXk-okRLVUU)

Passcode: 6HsYtf!.\$

Most of the meeting is also available on FaceBook:

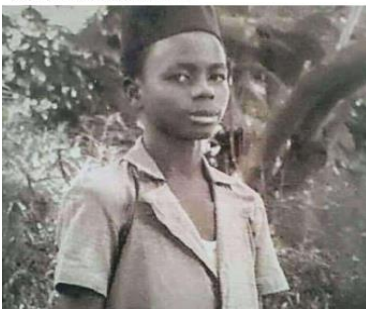
<https://fb.watch/6ht75uJHKT/>

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## Why does this lucky boy not allow others to benefit as he did?

Wannan Yaron Da Kuke Gani Kyauta Yayi Karatunsa.....Kudin Littafansa Kyauta, Uniform Kyauta, Abinci Kyauta Kai Harda Kudin Inka Koma Gida Kasha Shagalinka Ake Bashi A Makaranta Lokacin Karatunsa A Barewa College Dake Zaria. Amma Yau Kokarinshi Dole Dan Talaka Yabar Karatu A Jihar Dayake Mulka.

Allah Kana Gani.....



This boy you see, had the opportunity to have education free/sponsored by the Government at Barewa College in Zaria. This included pocket money and money to return home in the holidays. He was given money for his uniform, books and stationaries, all free of charge. But now he is the Governor of Kaduna State, he has increased tuition fees by 400% and says go away if you cannot afford this. He sacks workers and refuses to fully implement the N30,000 minimum wage.

## LETTER TO THE NIGERIAN ARTIST AND YOUTHS: IT IS TIME TO CHANGE

### THE MUSIC - Emelieze Andrew

*"Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it."*

... Frantz Fanon

History has shown us to be creative and our activities have severally changed our sociology. Today, Nigerian music is an export commodity, our people appreciate our music, films and other works of art. We are now being recognized globally in the areas of arts and other activities.

Our youths must recognize the role of arts in revolutionizing the world.

Our society to some extent is a product of our arts. Our music affects the psyche of society. This is the reason we just have to change our music and direct it towards revolutionizing Nigeria. Our country is in dire need of a revolution that will transform our society in a progressive direction.

History is knocking, we can't continue with the music that promotes sex, love of money, "Yahoo Yahoo", rituals, drugs etc. Our youths must not be made to think of making it through fraud and short cuts. What our current music is trending is very dangerous for us all. Except we want to deceive ourselves, our music is promoting fraud and criminality among our youths. The dreams of our younger ones now is to get rich through Yahoo Yahoo fraud.

### We must change the music.

Our music must be reflective, it must depict our real living conditions, it should query all societal mis-normal. Our music must promote the good life. Our music should promote qualitative education. Our music must challenge dictatorship. Our musicians must stop deceiving people with sensational rhyme and rhythm which makes us to dance away our lives in the midst of degeneration. Musicians must stop being opportunist, selfish and callous by taking advantage of a bad situation to provide false comfort to the people and at the same time enriching themselves.

Youths and musicians should arise now and change our music, let our music talk to our situation. We can't be going through horrible conditions whilst our music ignores it.

Posterity is waiting for us all. Our MUSIC and DANCE MUST CHANGE. I challenge our artists to change the music now and redeem our people from backwardness. We have great examples from Fela Kuti, Sunny Okosun, Bob Marley, Mariam Makeba, Peter Tosh etc.

*"You can fool some people but you can't fool all the people all the time"*  
...Marcus Garvey

## Our Real Enemy is the Global Super Rich



Some people feel that it is the imperialist countries that are exploiting Africa, but our real enemies are the global super rich. This includes people like Dangote, Otedola and Elumelu from Nigeria.

One indication of the way that these capitalists behave is their avoidance of paying taxes. The recent G7 meeting in early June of major governments agreed to ensure that all the major companies in the world should pay Corporation Tax of at least 15%. This is much lower than the existing rate in most countries and half the current rate of 30% in Nigeria.

But the rate of 15% would be much better than the rate that many large companies and rich individuals currently pay. A recent survey in the US by ProPublica found that the richest 25 Americans paid a true tax rate of only 3.4%. This compares to the median rate of tax in the US of 14% for federal taxes and the highest rate on income tax of 37%. The individuals included Warren Buffett (financier), Bill Gates (Microsoft), Rupert Murdoch (newspapers) and Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook).

The super rich avoid paying taxes through employing tax advisers and using trusts, subsidiaries and tax havens. This provides major benefits for larger companies and is part of the reason for companies continually striving to become larger. For small and medium-sized businesses as well as for the popular and middle classes, it is impossible to hide their income in a tax haven and so avoid paying taxes, unlike the mega rich.

# Mali's military ousts prime minister after strikes shake country's rulers

The president and prime minister of Mali, West Africa, were ousted at the end of May by the army officer who led a military coup last year. France has ended its military co-operation.

Behind all the manoeuvres at the top is the rulers' fear of a resistance from below.

The military leaders admitted this openly by saying that the government had presided over "a general consternation marked by the persistence of strikes". He added the outcome was "ultimately an unlimited strike resulting in a real asphyxiation of the Malian economy."

On 17 May the UNTM trade union federation called a nationwide five-day strike. It demanded pay rises, an extra 20,000 jobs in the civil service and other improvements for workers.

The strike was hugely successful, shutting banks and public services. It also hit parts of the crucial mining industries. The union reported, "The country is literally paralysed." It said that 96 percent of workers had taken part in the capital Bamako — and even more in other regions.

A further strike was due to follow, and union leaders announced plans to escalate to indefinite action. Then came the second coup. With politics in turmoil it was an ideal time for workers to redouble their fight and impose their own solutions.

Instead the UNTM leaders showed their criminally narrow focus. They said they couldn't strike because there was nobody to negotiate with. UNTM general secretary Yacouba Katile said, "As of today, we have no contact. Given this situation, we have decided not to further penalise our activists and the population in general."

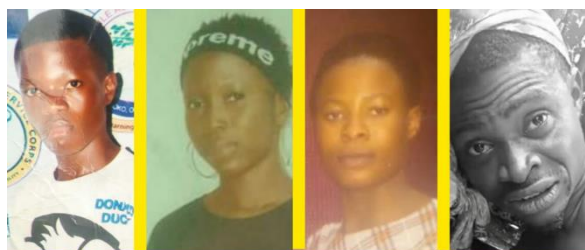
But it's guaranteed that without workers' struggle and mobilisations in the streets, there will be a lot of "penalising of activists and the population in general".

The imperial powers, mainly the former colonial ruler France, are in chaos about what to do next. They aren't completely sure who will be in office in the next few months, let alone in the longer term.

The French government condemned what it called "a coup within a coup". But these events underline that France's years of military intervention—and brutal treatment of the population—have never been about democracy. The security situation is now far worse, violent incidents have doubled in number every year since 2015. Last year more civilians were killed by the military in Mali than by Islamic militants. Millions of people have been displaced.

The recent strikes in Mali have shown the potential for ordinary people to fight for a new life. It should be free from imperialist forces, the Malian rich and the military.

## The #EndSARS Repression Continues



<b>SAMUEL OJO</b> (Dumped in Prison for breaking No Law)	<b>AYODELE IBUKUN</b> (Lost 3 Months Pregnancy in Prison)	<b>KEMISOLA OGUNNIYI</b> (Pregnant before arrest & had her Baby in Prison)	<b>ANI OBINNA</b> (Dumped in Prison for breaking No Law)
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Four young people were arrested by soldiers in Akure after the #EndSARS protests in October last year. Until recently they were all still detained in prison.

Eighteen-year-old Kemisola Ogunniyi gave birth whilst still in prison and was eventually released on bail only in mid-June.



But this is just the tip of the iceberg. Nearly three quarters of the 75,000 people currently in prison are awaiting their trial – so are "innocent until proved guilty". This number is 50% higher than 15 years ago.

## The Vanguard-front Beckons - Godwin Frank

North-east;  
from worst to unimaginable,  
human conditions inhuman,  
and rapidly regressing!

North-west;  
now carved into fiefdoms,  
marauding bandits and warlords reign,  
and the State throws up its filthy hands!

Middle-belt;  
in vice-grip of enslaving pastoralism,  
community of farmers organizing,  
and the rally call - Self-defence or Death!

South-west;  
in streets of hinterlands,  
sighs of perceived marginalization afresh,  
and songs of self-determination rent the air!

South-east;  
new realities for the State,  
demystification of the security  
apparatuses,  
and unravelling of State coercion and  
power!

South-south;  
as the rumbling of the dormant volcanoes  
is nigh,  
a visit by the progressively subdued State,  
and the head in bowed position!

The imageries,  
enough we've seen!  
The lessons,  
enough we've had!  
The torch,  
in vanguard-front it must be!  
The rear-guard back,  
all time dangerous position!

## Lessons of the JUSUN and PASAN Strike

The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), the Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN) and the Academic Staff Union Polytechnic (ASUP) show the



way to win strikes – by continuing with strike action until victory is actually achieved. Negotiations were held whilst the strikes continued – unlike the case of the NLC strike in Kaduna where the strike was suspended as soon as they were

invited to negotiations by the Ministry of Labour.

JUSUN continued its strike throughout negotiations and even after they had signed an agreement on 20th May. They were waiting for actual implementation. The strike was eventually called off after pressure from the National Judicial Council. However, the suspension was only effective from Monday 14th June, 2021 almost a month after JUSUN had signed the agreement. Similarly, ASUP signed an agreement on 27th April, but continued their strike until 10th June 2021.

JUSUN, PASAN and ASUP show the approach that all trade unions should take. They agreed their demands and struck. Negotiations were held and the strikes continued. An agreement was reached and the unions signed, but the strikes continued to ensure implementation. But they also needed to call for more solidarity to be able to win their demands in full. JUSUN was at least talking about organising public protests, but the NLC showed the way with daily protests in Kaduna for the three days of that strike.

## Summary of Strikes - June 2021

**We need your assistance** to ensure that this monthly strike report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes or other protests in your state or community to the Socialist Labour WhatsApp group or to [socialistlabour.ng@gmail.com](mailto:socialistlabour.ng@gmail.com)

**The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) called a five-day warning general strike in Kaduna State from Monday 17th May.** For three days growing protests were held in Kaduna. Water, electricity, schools, offices, trains, airlines, banks and more all came to a standstill. The strike was suspended on the evening of Wednesday due to an invitation to a meeting by the Minister of Labour. Here the NLC agreed to “no further industrial action on these issues” and Kaduna State agreed to no victimisation. The NLC has maintained the suspension of the strike, but Kaduna State retrenched 18 lecturers from the State University for supporting the strike. The National Executive Council agreed on 22<sup>nd</sup> June to mobilise to return to strike action.



**Members of the Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN)** started their indefinite strike on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, over the lack of financial independence for State Houses of Assembly. All State Houses of Assembly were shut. Section 121(3) of the Federal Constitution and Presidential Order 10 of 2020 gave autonomy, but this had not been implemented as state governors wanted to hold on to their financial powers. The return to work finally took place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Judiciary workers, members of JUSUN**, started national indefinite strike from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April and ended it on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June. The strike continued throughout negotiations and an agreement that was signed by the union on 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was later signed by the governors' representative, but the union was still concerned about implementation. On 8<sup>th</sup> June a five-man committee was set up to monitor the implementation of the Memorandum of Action (MOA) signed between the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) and the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) on financial autonomy for the Judiciary.

**The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP)** on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April declared an indefinite strike. Following appraisal of a report indicating gradual implementation of the items contained in the memorandum of action signed between the union and the Federal Government, the union resolved to suspend its 65-day-old industrial action with effect from Thursday, June 10. The suspension is for a period of three months to enable the government complete execution of the items contained in the memorandum of action signed with the union since April 27.

**NLC and TUC in Nasarawa State** started a general strike from Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June. Grade level 1 to 6 received the N30,000, but local government workers did not. Despite this, the local government workers did not join the strike. Thus only 3,300 workers benefited out of the 16,000 workers in the State. In the month before the strike, the Governor presented 25 brand new SUVs to the first-class traditional rulers in the state, valued at over N800 million. The council of traditional chiefs then appealed for the strike to be postponed – and it was put back by a week! Salary arrears from August 2016 are also outstanding. The State has agreed not to implement its threat of no work - no pay. But the State wants to include a clause in the agreement that the promotions will be reversed if FAAC allocations drop below N4 billion a month in future. So the strike continues.

**Nasarawa health workers, members of Coalition of Health Professionals Association**, started an indefinite strike from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Some of their complaints are lack of promotions since 2011, failure of implementation of N30,000 minimum wage for its members and lack of annual increment among others. They pulled out of the agreement as they want their promotions paid for June rather than August.

**Members of the National Association of Government General Medical and Dental Practitioners in the Ondo State** began a two-week warning strike on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The state government had failed to pay their salary arrears for some months. They also alleged that the state had failed to resolve the issue of the exodus of doctors and other health workers, among other issues. Doctors in the State struck for most of February 2021 over the same issues.

**The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the Akwa Ibom State University re-commenced its suspended strike action over alleged non payment of at least 10 months' salary arrears and other issues on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April.** The JAC comprises the institutions' Academic Staff Union of Universities, Non-Academic Staff Union Universities, Senior Staffs Association of Nigeria Universities and the National Association of Academic Technologists. The strike was suspended on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 with a promise that the first payment of salary arrears would be made that week.

**The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Ambrose Alli University, Edo State, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March began an indefinite strike** over unpaid five-month salaries and remittance of over 13 months unpaid check-off dues and other deductions from staff members' salaries. The strike was suspended on 31<sup>st</sup> May. The agreement specified that the lecturers would be paid at least two months salary within a week.

Nigeria's sole trade union in the telecommunications industry, the **Private Telecommunications and Communications Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PTECSSAN** - <https://ptecssan.ng/be-a-member>), held a nationwide three-day warning strike from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June over alleged violation of national labour laws by employers.

The **Joint Health Sector Union/coalition (JOHESU) at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH)** on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, began a three-day warning strike to protest against poor conditions of service at the hospital and lack of promotions since 2018.

**#jointheresistance**

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**We are socialists and Marxists**

The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises have made clear that capitalism is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from it. Attempts to reform capitalism have failed: the only solution is to replace it with a truly democratic socialist society. Capitalist rulers will only give up power if forced to do so. We need a mass democratic movement to bring about socialism. Events, such as the Russian Revolution of 1917, January 2012 in Nigeria and the uprisings in Sudan and Algeria last year, show what is needed.

**The organised working class is the central force for change**

We believe that the organised working class (rank and file members of NLC/TUC) is the central force that can fight capitalism and build socialism. As Marx said, "the emancipation of the working class must be the act of the working class itself", so we do not believe that countries like China or the former USSR are socialist. We need the organised working class to lead the struggle for socialism, supported by the wider popular classes, the informal sector and market women.

**We fight all forms of oppression**

Capitalist society rests on exploitation and economic injustice, but also generates oppression, including sexism and racism. We are committed to fighting for the full social and economic equality of women and building a movement where the fight against any form of oppression is at the centre of the struggle for socialism.

**We are internationalists, not nationalists**

Capitalism seeks to divide us along lines of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion. We reject such divisions: we stand in solidarity with working people worldwide. We oppose imperialist wars and interference. We want a fairer world not just to develop the Nigerian economy. Issues like the environmental crisis and Covid-19 can only be addressed by pooling resources on a world scale.

**A living and changing tradition**

We draw on the tradition of past socialists like Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky and Rosa Luxemburg. But the world is constantly changing. We need to discuss how those ideas should be reinterpreted and developed for the twenty-first century.

**Space for discussion and action**

We aim to create space where ideas are discussed and acted on. We reject any sectarianism, or any claim that a small number of activists can substitute for a larger movement. We use the opportunities provided by social media to organise better. We want to create a group with a lively and democratic internal culture. We want to

discover, use and develop every member's skills. We aim to be accessible to people new to socialist ideas.

**Working with others and learning from them**

We encourage our members to work in popular campaigns (like ASCAB) and, where possible, to organise joint activities with other left groups. We learn from mass protests and other writers and activists. We don't have all the answers.

**We welcome everyone who hates capitalism and oppression**

Everyone who agrees with our basic principles above is welcome to join Socialist Labour. We are more interested in men and women campaigning and discussing ideas than just joining us. In order to reach wider layers of society with our ideas, we will collaborate with other socialists in protests, social movements, alliances, campaigns and workplace struggles.

**To join the Socialist Labour supporters WhatsApp group use the following link:**

[tinyurl.com/SocialistLabour](https://www.tinyurl.com/SocialistLabour)

**We would love to receive letters, comments or suggestions from our readers. We want to hear from you with suggestions for articles for our future editions or questions on any articles in this issue.**

**We especially welcome news about protests and strikes in your community or town.**

***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:**

**Minimum suggested monthly subscription levels are:**

**Employed – N1,000**

**Well paid – N5,000**

**Unemployed/student – N500**

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**TWITTER: @SocialistLabNg**

**FACEBOOK @socialistlabourng**