



Socialist Bulletin

A Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour

EMAIL: SOCIALISTLABOUR.NG@GMAIL.COM

TWITTER @SOCIALISTLABNG

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United Strike Action for Proper Funding of the University Sector

The university sector has suffered gross underfunding and privatisation over the last two decades. The failure of the government to properly fund education and its failure to implement its agreements with the trade unions explain the repeated strikes in the sector and more widely across the public sector.

The ASUU strike last year closed all the public universities for nine months, but this was not enough. This time around ASUU needs to reach out to other trade unions and the student union governments both on and off the university campuses. As a start, the four main trade unions for university workers, ASUU, NAAT, NASU and SSANU need to unite and fight the Government together.

In 2015 the Federal budget was just over N4 trillion. The National Assembly has agreed a Federal budget of just over N16 trillion for next year. So government spending in 2022 is planned to be nearly four times the level when Buhari came to power in 2015. The massive growth in the economy over the last two decades and massive increases in government spending has not benefited the poor – nor the university sector.

56 developing country governments, members of the Global Partnership for Education, agreed to spend at least of 20 per cent of their total annual budgets on education. In 2015, when Buhari came to power the figure was more than 12% for the Federal Budget. For 2022, Buhari is proposing less than 8%, after annual reductions for each year since 2015. Consequently, spending on education in Nigeria is less than half the average for sub-Saharan Africa.

All the trade unions in the university sector are agreed that N22 billion offered by the Government as earned allowances and the N30bn for "revitalisation" are not adequate. Rather than striking together the leaderships of these unions appear to be fighting each other!!

The concessions from the government, so far, are insulting. They include only a promise to pay some owed salaries (earned allowances) and only N30bn for "revitalisation" of the universities sector. At that rate, it would take nearly 30 years to implement the 2012 Needs Assessment Report. This was a Government report that estimated that N1,300 billion was needed to revitalise the country's universities. Only N200 billion was ever paid, in 2013, and this Government has not made any contribution to this program.

ASUU are 100% correct to be talking about returning to strike action in the universities. NASU and SSANU were correct to strike in early November. But these strikes should be organised in unity across the four main trade unions on the campuses. They will also require effective solidarity from the wider trade union movement to ensure victory.

Visit: socialistlabour.com.ng

When is A Massacre Not A Massacre? Sisí Afrika

Since the release of the report of the Lagos #EndSARS Panel, sycophants of the Government have tried to puncture holes in the report. They are claiming that it was not a massacre because the number of deaths was not so high. This is a thoughtless and inhumane argument that exemplifies the inhumanity of the Government they defend. The fact that Lai Muhammed has tried to debunk the Panel Report means that we all know it is true.

There were live videos on Instagram from DJ Switch on the night of the Lekki Massacre. There were live reports from people present at the Lekki Massacre. There were various videos showing people dying during the #EndSARS protests. Some of these videos are still giving us nightmares.

There were the youths shot in Ogbomosho inside the king's palace. There was a bloody SARS ring uncovered in the southeast where people died and their bodies never got recovered. My friend had someone die in her arms during the Osogbo #EndSARS protests, after the convoy of the Governor of the state shot at them. There was the case of soldiers tearing youths apart with bullets in Ikire, Osun State.

#ENDSARS JPI REPORT

These are the faces of individuals Indicted in the Lagos Judicial Panel of Inquiry Report

01



NIGERIAN ARMY

Its officers opened fire and killed unarmed protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate on October 20, 2020. See page 285 of the report

LT. COL. S.O BELLO

He led the troop deployed to the Lekki Toll Gate and was said to have given the order to the soldiers to shoot



02



03

NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE

The Nigerian Police shot and killed a protester around the Toll Gate (the waterside). They also brutalized and injured protesters around the Lekki Toll Gate including Onilewo Legend and threatened several people. See page 293

CSP RAJI GANIYU

The DPO of Maroko, CSP Raji Ganiyu along with Policemen from the Maroko Division to be prosecuted for arbitrary and indiscriminate shooting and killing of protesters. See page 306



04

05



LAWMA

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) was also fingered for cleaning the scene of the incident thereby removing bloodstains and other evidence. See page 296

LEKKI CONCESSION COMPANY (LCC)

Its staff removed cameras stationed at the Lekki Toll Gate on October 20, 2020, and they were not tendered before the panel. These cameras would have assisted the panel in its investigation into the incident that occurred on the night of the 20th October, 2020. See page 298



06

The use of the word "massacre" can be traced to OAU, Ile-Ife Massacre, the Odi Massacre, etc. Even though I find it appalling to be debating the meaning of Massacre with the defenders of the regime, it is important to come down to their levels and inform them that the common denominator in all of these events called MASSACRE is the fact that they were undertaken by paid agents of the state.

In the Ile-Ife Massacre in 1999, it was cultists employed by the Vice Chancellor of the School. In the Odi Massacre, it was soldiers at the behest of the then President Olusegun Obasanjo.

This is the meaning of a Massacre in the context of the Lekki Massacre and the Massacre of #EndSARS protesters across the country. This is to give it a gravity in the minds of the masses that the state, which hypocritically claims to protect us, is actually directly killing us. This is what makes a massacre different from killings by terrorists or kidnappers. It is not about the numbers of people dead. In the Ile-Ife Massacre, five people died while in Odi Massacre, they were in hundreds if not thousands. Meanwhile, how can we be debating numbers? As if even just one human life does not matter?

This semantic argument of the use of the word "Massacre" is a continuation of the lines of actions of the tyrannical Buhari-APC regime. There was the attempt on DJ Switch's life and attacks on witnesses that bravely testified to the Panel. There was the attempt at tarnishing the image of FEMCO who organised logistics for the #EndSARS protests.

Yet, there are still sycophants trying to defend a government that MURDERED its citizens. Didn't the same government first insist that not soldiers were sent to the protests, that rubber bullets were shot at the protesters and then that live bullets were not used?

There is no point going back and forth over how many people died. The point here is that security forces did KILL unarmed and peaceful protesters.

Their final argument is that we are just being emotional. Being emotionless is not something to take pride in. Invalidating people's justified anger at tyranny with this blackmail is the reason why this dictatorial regime still has sycophants.

Of course I'm emotional and angry, angry at the injustice, angry that our own government is killing us on the streets and in our homes with hunger! I'm angry that I'm supposed to be on the defensive so that I won't be called 'emotional' while fighting this injustice!

We need trade union branches to distribute the Lekki Massacre report to their members. We need them to support the recommendations. We need to send the army back to barracks – they should not be used to protect the corrupt elite and their murdering police. We need the trade unions to demand the full implementation of the original five demands of #EndSARS which the Panel have effectively agreed with:

- Immediate release of all arrested protesters
- Justice for all deceased victims of police brutality and appropriate compensations for their families. Setting up an independent body to oversee the investigation and prosecution of all reported police misconduct within a period of 10 days
- Carrying out psychological evaluation and retaining of all disbanded SARS operatives before they can be deployed (this should be verified by an independent body).
- The government should increase police salary and they should adequately be compensated for protecting lives and property of the citizens.

The full panel report can be downloaded via this link <http://saharareporters.com/2021/11/15/full-report-lagos-endsars-judicial-panel-report-lekki-toll-gate-massacre>

Labour Party or TPAP-M - *what alternative for 2023 and Beyond?*

We suffered from 16 years of PDP rule followed by six years of APC - so far. For the corrupt elite this has meant looting on a grand scale and economic growth that has increased their wealth beyond their wildest dreams.

For the rest of us we have had increased poverty, inequality and associated corruption. In the last couple of years this has resulted in a massive increase in crime and insecurity.

So in 2023 we are looking for an alternative. But where will that come from? On the Socialist Labour website we have a debate over the two main possibilities.

Joseph S. Ndirang of the Labour Party argues that it is strange that most people do not know that the Labour Party is the baby and brain child of the Nigerian Labour movement alongside its civil society allies. He says that it will take the present Leadership of the NLC and TUC to take the bull by its horns to address the issues in the Labour Party. This will enable the resources and membership of the trade union movement to provide a political alternative.

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2021/11/01/the-nigerian-workers-and-the-labour-party-the-way-forward/>

In contrast, Jaye Gaskia and The Peoples Alternative Political Movement (TPAP-M) are committed to the emergence of a mass workers party and the socialist transformation of Nigeria.

The movement has plunged itself into intervening in the struggles of the working peoples – organising with the people who are fighting back and resisting exploitation and repression, and actively building solidarity and support for the struggles of the people.

The Peoples Alternative Political Movement (TPAP-M) can be contacted by email tpapsnigeria@gmail.com or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TPAPsNigeria>

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2021/11/08/tpap-m-building-a-mass-political-movement-of-the-working-peoples/>

ORGANISING THE ORGANISERS : A CLARION CALL TO ACTION.

By Jaye Gaskia

The working class and employees of big and small businesses, as well as those of other associations and organisations are key to the running of the economic system. That is why the organisation of these workers, employees and the working class as a whole in to trade unions is of such decisive importance to the health of the workers. All workers, whatever the nature of their employer need trade unions to ensure the promotion, defence and advancement of their collective interests.

Unfortunately however, the workers and personnel employed by not for profit organisations like trade unions are themselves seldom organised as members of trade unions. They hardly ever have their own trade unions or employees associations. These are needed to engage in collective bargaining, to set minimum standards, and establish and continually seek to improve their terms and conditions of employment and service, as well as in their conditions of living as a whole.

This is why it is long overdue for these category of workers and employees, to become organised, establish and belong to their own respective workers trade unions and or employees associations. It is in this sense that we can paraphrase Marx: “The organiser must himself or herself be organised”!

Staff of trade unions could establish an All Nigeria Trade Union Workers Association as a federation, with state and local government and unit chapters and branches. This could affiliate with the central trade unions federation. In addition, employees of professional associations and non-profits can establish an All Nigeria Federation of Workers and Employees Associations of Professional Associations and Non-Profits. As an alternative, staff of trade unions and NGOs could join existing trade unions. So, for example, staff of the NLC in Abuja have formed a branch of the Civil Servants Union (NCSU).

Every organisation with a minimum of five employees should have an employees association. Those employees who work in organisations with less than five employed workers, should have their workers belong directly to the local government branch of the federation.

As the governments contemplate their decision to impose greater hardships on the people and our class, through the imminent hikes in electricity tariff and fuel prices, we need our class to be prepared, and battle ready to wage the resistance and beat back the onslaught of the ruling class.

Amplifying the power of our class, requires that all categories of workers are organised, including the organisers. All staff, workers and employees should be members of trade unions whatever the nature of their employer. All organisations of the class need to build active solidarity of the class, mobilising the class and coordinating our fightback.

NLC Still Evading Payment of New Minimum Wage

National Record has reported that well over two years after the enactment of the existing national minimum wage, the main trade union centre, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), is yet to implement the new wage for its own staff.

The NLC’s core responsibility it is to ensure that its members enjoy, among other benefits, a decent wage.

This is despite the staff members of the NLC being members of the Nigerian Civil Servants Union. Like other workers they need to take more action to protect their interests. For more details see:

<https://nationalrecord.com.ng/wages-commission-set-to-sanction-violators-of-minimum-wage-act-as-nlc-yet-implement-new-wage/>

Socialist Labour public meeting on health sector

Each month Socialist Labour holds a public meeting by Zoom. Last month the meeting was on Reviving the Health Sector in Nigeria. Speakers included Tokunbo Oke of Socialist Labour and Martin Egbanubi, General Secretary of NUAHP. A recording of this meeting is available from Facebook:

https://web.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=368076975101095

What is the Balance Sheet of the Four Week Public Sector Strike in Cross River State?

Socialist Labour recognizes that NLC and TUC managed to organise a united strike across the public sector in Cross River State and this was sustained for over four weeks. This included both state and local government workers.



However, the union leadership collapsed and suspended the strike when called upon to do so by the traditional leaders locally. On 10th November an agreement was signed with the State that did not achieve any of the main demands of the strike and gave the State an excuse not to implement the key demands in future. The full analysis of the four demands and the agreement to end the strike is available from our website: <https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2021/11/24/what-is-the-balance-sheet-of-the-four-week-public-sector-strike-in-cross-river-state/>

COP26 – Will Global Governments Save the World?

The Cop26 climate conference in Scotland ended having decided to keep the present toxic system in place rather than charting solutions to save human existence.



The conference was supposed to “keep 1.5 percent alive”—the need to keep temperature rises at or below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. But the rise will be 2.4 degrees if all governments meet the 2030 targets, and 2.7 degrees with current policies.

“If the objective at Cop26 was to keep 1.5 degrees alive, it’s dead,” said Dieter Helm, professor of energy policy at Oxford University. This means that the droughts,

floods, forest fires are set to continue and get much worse in the years to come.

We face a huge problem as climate change is already devastating Nigeria from the drying up of Lake Chad to loss of land to the sea in the Niger Delta. For more details of the impact of climate change globally and locally read the following article:

<https://nationalrecord.com.ng/climate-change-global-and-local-impacts-time-for-change-by-drew-povey/>

Ethiopia shows the dangers of ethnic based policies

Events in Ethiopia over the last year, yet again, show the dangers of ethnic based policies and confirm the need for us to argue against any form of ethnic chauvinism. The first article provides the regional background, the second article brings developments up to date:

<https://socialistproject.ca/2020/12/ethiopia-entering-a-dangerous-phase/>

<https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/52621/Ethnic+divisions+laid+by+elite+fuel+war+in+Ethiopia>

Workers at Research Institutes Strike for nearly two months - Over Agreement from 2010!

Workers at nearly 70 research institutes, members of the Joint Research and Allied Institutions Sector Unions (JORAISU), started an indefinite strike from 13th



October over the Government's failure to implement its agreement of December 2010. Protests have been held in different locations around the country. In Lagos, the unions, which began their protest at the Bar – Beach area, shutdown Victoria Island, carrying placards and chanting solidarity songs. Workers from research institutes in Ibadan held a rally on 28th October to publicise the strike. Staff of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) held another rally on 8th November in Ibadan. There were also protests in front of the NIPSS building in Jos and in

Kwara.

The demand of the strike include:

- Non-Payment of 12 months CONRAISS arrears of 53.7% salary for which NTTR Kaduna, NVRI Vom, NCAM Ilorin, ASCON Topo, Badagry had been paid part leaving others;
- Withdrawal of Circular on non-skipping of salary Grade Level 10 National Industrial Court of Nigeria judgement in favour of Trade Unions and others;
- Retirement age of 65 years for non-research staff as is obtainable in the universities and others;
- Peculiar Allowances/Earned Allowances;
- Establishment of a central body to be known as National Research Institutes Commission (NARICOM);
- Adequate funding of research institutes; and
- Release of Scheme/Conditions of Service.

International Socialism – review of the latest issue

International Socialism is an international journal of Marxist theory published by the Socialist Workers Party in Britain. It is published four times a year and the content of all its 172 issues are available for free down load from its website: <http://isj.org.uk/> Several of the more recent issues are available able for purchase from Iva Valley Books, Labour House, central Abuja. The most recent issue includes the following articles:

- Afghanistan and empire - Joseph Choonara
- What to expect from COP26: climate action, climate justice or greenwashing? - Eve Croeser
- Beyond our numbers: a socialist argument about population and the environment - Martin Empson and Ian Rappel
- Women's work in the first civilisations - Rosemarie Nünning.

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ASUU Communiqué on “Nigeria: The State of the Nation

At the end of October, the lecturers’ trade union ASUU held a summit in Bauchi. The summit recognised that:



“the current economic policies have their foundations in the wholesale neoliberal prescriptions of the withdrawal of government from public provisioning of basic social services (education, health, housing, etc.) and basic utilities (drinking water, environment sanitation), removal of subsidies for agricultural inputs, withdrawal of government support for local industries (such as textiles, manufacture, assembly plants etc.), reduction of employment in the public sector, increased public borrowing and debt accumulation, devaluation of the Naira and auctioning of public property (privatisation).”

However, they claim that these policies were “dictated and supervised” by the IMF, World Bank and others. These bodies may support and legitimise such policies, but, “Summit notes that a tiny ruling class and the political elite that formulate and implement these anti-people policies are also the beneficiaries of the policies.”

So the local elite have gained massively from such policies that they implemented. The current struggles against poverty, inequality and corruption (with the resulting insecurity) is a struggle between the poor majority and the corrupt money bags of the country. It is not a nationalist struggle against foreign powers.

The communiqué correctly recognises “the increasing burdens of ruling class economic and social policies that increased the brutality and impunity of the so called law enforcement agencies on one hand, and the increasing ethnic religious prejudice among our people.” It again correctly recognises that “the deficit of social security as the foundation of ethnic and religious conflicts on one hand, and straightforward and general criminal acts, such as banditry, armed robbery, cultism, kidnapping, insurgencies, etc., on the other.”

For these reasons, the communiqué is a useful and interesting read, but should be read critically by socialists. To read the full ASUU Bauchi communiqué click the following link:

<https://nationalrecord.com.ng/communique-of-nigeria-the-state-of-the-nation-summit-of-asuu-bauchi-zone/>

Should Trade Unions take up the issue of Covid Vaccination?

For many years now, the poor majority have been suffering a major health disaster. In 2018 the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that there were perhaps 20,000 deaths each week in Nigeria which could have been avoided if the necessary medical care had been provided. But rather than worry about malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis and other diseases of the poor, the Government only seems to care about Covid. Perhaps because the rich elite cannot escape this disease. Despite the fact that less than 3,000 people in total may have actually died from this disease in nearly two years.

Governments are now demanding that their workers are vaccinated against Covid. The Federal Government has demanded that all workers are vaccinated by the beginning of December. Edo and Kaduna governments have made similar demands. We need governments to properly fund public health for all as a priority before demanding that all workers should be vaccinated to protect the corrupt elite. We need the public sector trade unions to take up this issue and to protect their members and their families.

Abortion Rights Campaign



We want to start a campaign for Abortion Rights in Nigeria. The aim of the campaign will be to draw inspiration from internationally victorious abortion rights campaigns in Poland, Ireland, US and most recently Benin Republic. We want to make free, safe, accessible and non-prejudiced abortion available to all Nigerian women on the basis of need.

We are having an initial planning meeting and then hope to organise an initial public meeting to gain support from trade unions, civil society and others. Please contact Socialist Labour if you are able to be part of this important campaign for a woman's right to choose.

Socialist Labour is planning to have abortion rights as the topic for its public meeting at the end of January.

Women Win N15m Damages Against the Police in Abuja

In August 2021, a landmark judgement was delivered in favour of six women whose sexual assault case helped galvanise Nigeria's #MeToo movement in 2019.



In an open letter, a coalition of 72 women's organisations, activists, scholars, civil society and human rights organisations, said the raids violated women's rights to free movement and expression.

The letter said: "security agents raided the "Caramelo night club" and other clubs on two different occasions within one week in Abuja (17th and 26th April, 2019). During the raids, they arrested several women, who reported that they had

been sexually assaulted and sexually harassed, some who were raped." The courts have now awarded six of these women a total of N15 million in damages. We hope that the police will soon pay this money.

Please join Socialist Labour, by submitting the following details:

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State: _____

Workplace address/university/school: _____

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Price of Cooking Gas is Killing Women

The impact of the huge increase in the price of cooking gas over the last year will kill many women. Many families are forced to move back to charcoal or wood for cooking as they cannot longer afford gas. As a result, many more women will die from air pollution and fumes.

Yet, the Government is exporting more gas and allowing gas flaring to continue in the Niger Delta.

Prices are still rising fast, may be not generally as much as the official figure of 63% for cooking gas over the last year. This shows that we need another increase in the minimum wage. Another five-year increase is due this year (was 2011, should have been 2016 and 2021). We cannot afford increases only every five years – electricity prices can increase every six months. We need action from NLC!!

The Amalgamated Union of Public Corporations, Civil Service Technical, and Recreational Services Employees (AUPCTRE), urges stakeholders to urgently commence negotiation for a new national minimum wage without any further delay. This was agreed at its Federal Zonal Meeting in early November. We need other trade unions to also put pressure on the NLC.

Sudanese Workers Join Massive Strikes and Protests Against the Military Coup

The military coup to stop the revolutionary process in Sudan seems to have had the opposite effect. Across the country resistance is organizing and it is enjoying success. The military regime thus finds itself isolated. The Association of Sudanese Professionals called for civil disobedience and organised two days of nationwide strikes soon after the coup. There have also been strikes by teachers, pharmacies, universities and other sectors. The Association brings together trade unions of lawyers, doctors, engineers, academics and secondary school teachers. Founded underground in 2012, it played a leading role in the downfall of Omar al-Bashir, the former dictator.

An in-depth mobilization against the coup is also being carried out by the resistance committees. Composed mainly of young people, these neighbourhood-based structures played a key role in the revolution and represent the most radical wing of the movement. Their political experience and their know-how against repression make them the regime's key adversary.

These resistance committees continued after the removal of the former dictator. They made up for the deficiencies of the State and carried out municipal functions such as cleaning, repairs to schools and cultural sites. They took care of security at night and stopped any price speculation on bread or fuel. In some cases, they have organized solidarity markets selling basic necessities at cost price, a beneficial initiative for many Sudanese living in poverty.

This new way of doing politics, mixing civil organisation and political activism, is found in other African countries. This is the case in Burkina Faso with "the Citizen's Brush" or in Senegal with "We Are Fed Up". The resistance committees are places where young people can express themselves freely, especially young women. They have gained legitimacy in the political struggle, especially as it is reinforced by the activities of feminist organizations.

The resistance is not weakening and is beginning to score points. The inability of the military power in the capital, Khartoum, to stem popular mobilizations is now obvious. The possibility is envisaged that Sudan will experience a deep crisis like its neighbours.

Western governments do not wish to take the risk of regional insecurity. The US has called on General al-Burhane to retreat, and is putting pressure on the external supporters of the military. Two possibilities are open to the coup plotters: the headlong rush, accompanied by widespread repression; or a negotiated solution championed by Western governments.

The generals seem to be choosing the second option by releasing four former members of the government. They even say they are ready to accept Abdallah Hamdok as Prime Minister again. But this idea is rejected by the protestors in the streets who want a totally civilian government.

For more background of mass protests in Sudan during 2019 and last year, see:

<https://isj.org.uk/class-power-and-revolution-in-sudan/>

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Summary of Workers Strikes and Protests - November 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 tpapsnigeria@gmail.com

Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) led a public sector strike by state and local government workers in Cross River from 12th October. The State failed to fully implement the N30,000 minimum wage, failed to implement promotions or annual increments and failed to pay its pensioners as required. The Cross River strike was called off on 10th November without implementation of the main demands and an agreement that accepted that these could only be paid "when the economy improves".

On 5th November, **pensioners in Cross River State** held a protest blocking the gates to the Governors Office. The State has not paid any gratuity with the current Governor. Similarly, thousands of **pensioners in Osun State shut-down all activities in the state government secretariat** in Osogbo on 23 November. This was to protest non-payment of their pensions under the Contributory Pension Scheme for 29 months.

Workers at nearly **70 research institutes, members of the Joint Research and Allied Institutions Sector Unions (JORAISU)**, started an indefinite strike from Wednesday 13th October over the Government's failure to implement its agreement of December 2010. Workers from research institutes in Ibadan held a rally on 28th October to publicise the strike. Staff of the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) held another rally on 8th November in Ibadan. Also protests in Lagos and Kwara and a press conference in Jos.

National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) suspended their strike for six weeks from 6th October 2021 (until 18th November). After 63 days on strike, this was one of the longest ever strikes by doctors.

Workers of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) shut down Abia State University Teaching Hospital (ABSUTH) indefinitely from 3rd November over non-payment of 22 months salary arrears. The unions involved are the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria (MHWUN), National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Senior Staff Association of Universities' Teaching Hospitals Research Institutes and Associated Institutions (SSAUTHRIAL). They are demanding the immediate payment of five months arrears. Abia State Polytechnic is also on strike.

Civil servants of the Joint Negotiating Council of Trade Unions closed **Federal Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment** with mass picket on 10th November over non-payment of salaries. They demanded the removal of the permanent secretary, Evelyn Ngige.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities and Associated Institutions (NASU), the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) stage 3-day nationwide strike over earned allowances from 10 – 12th November. The Federal Government has offered to pay the next tranche of N22 billion for earned academic allowances with 75% to be paid to academic staff, members of ASUU. The strike was also demanding the payment of the arrears for the consequential adjustment of the minimum wage.

Teachers, members of NUT in FCT, closed all public schools, primary and secondary for five days from Wednesday, 17th November. On the basis of a promise to pay secondary school teachers their arrears by 31 December the secondary school teachers went back to work on Thursday 25th November. This left the primary school teachers to strike alone over promotion, increments and minimum wage arrears.

Railway workers closed down the rail network for a planned three days from Thursday, 18th November over their demand for improved welfare. After reaching various agreements with officials of the Federal Ministry of Transportation the strike was suspended and work started immediately the same day. Life insurance would be paid and their salary is to be reviewed and the Ministry is "securing approval for implementation in the earliest possible time". Workers at Mayor Biscuit Company Ltd (MABISCO), Agbara, Ogun State – many of them casual workers – accused the company of paying them slave wages of N1,000 daily despite running shifts lasting up to 13 hours. Some workers were suspended for protesting in November. Three former workers at the factory were detained by the police in Ikeja on 25th November.

On 23rd November **Air Traffic Controllers** at Abuja Airport, members of Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers' Association (NATCA) issued a two week notice of strike action and started a work to rule or three-hour flow control for two days at Lagos, Abuja, Port-Harcourt and Kano airports. This was over poor working conditions, following the death of one of their colleagues. They are demanding the recruitment of more staff and better allowances. After a meeting the next day with senior management the action was suspended for two weeks pending action on three of their demands.

On 24th November youths of **Ogheghe community** barricaded Sapele-Benin highway. They were protesting over the deplorable state of the road. No security agents attended the protest.

Socialist Labour-JOIN US

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

For more details of the basic ideas and policies of Socialist Labour see: www.socialistlabour.com.ng/about-us/

To join the Socialist Labour supporters WhatsApp group use the following link: [tinyurl.com/SocialistLabour](https://t.me/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.