



Socialist Bulletin

A Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour

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Organise for Action Against Inequality, Corruption and Resulting Insecurity

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) call for action over the threat of another increase in the price of fuel provides hope for 2022. As is the case globally, the rich in Nigeria are becoming ever richer. In contrast, the poor see their desperation plummet to new lows. We all find it more difficult to make ends meet. We need to expand the current demands and provide effective solidarity and support for existing strikes and other protests – we can all do something. We need action, as the NLC highlighted, over the minimum wage and the prompt payment of pension entitlements. The NLC named Zamfara, Taraba, Kogi, Imo, Cross River, Benue, and Abia as states where April 2019 minimum wage is still to be implemented. We need to agitate for strike action in these states by the NLC and the TUC.

We need solidarity with the striking research workers. The nearly 70 research institutes have been on indefinite strike since 11th October, nearly three months. We need to reach out to support the strikers of institutes in our localities. The NLC recognises that we suffer other price rises, they note “the soaring inflation of the prices of basic commodities and services”. We need action over the increases in school fees and the other costs of education and health. We need to combine this with agitation for the long delayed strikes by ASUU and JOHESU in the education and health sectors to start.

We need to expand unionisation beyond the public sector heartlands. Security guards and domestic workers are starting to organise they need our assistance and support.

We support the NLC’s Charter of Demands by Nigerian Workers to “include the demands for basic social, economic and political rights that fulfil the ideals of citizenship, improve the lot of the working class”. But recognise that it is only through mass action and widespread strikes that we will see the achievement of such demands. Such successes will give confidence to support a real alternative in 2023. This will not be built through talks with existing politicians, but through building a clear political alternative.

The People’s Alternative Political Movement (TPAP-M) has held successful townhall meetings in a number of states. We need to expand and build on these meetings to start to organise an alternative political party.

TPAP-M has produced letters to help to mobilise trade unionists, students, civil society and others for the NLC action and beyond. We can all help to distribute these letters and argue for support far and wide – widespread endorsement of the letters will show mass support. This is needed to mobilise and to extend the action.

Days of action called by the NLC are a start, but will not be enough. We can all help to support, expand and extend these protests. Another world is possible!

For more details of the NLC and TPAP-M protests see: <https://nationalrecord.com.ng/mass-protests-tpap-m-writes-trade-unions/>

Visit: socialistlabour.com.ng

Why We Campaign Against Fuel Price Increases – *Femi Aborisade*

Fuel pricing has, historically, been a major issue contributing to the quality of economic wellbeing of the masses. The higher the price, the poorer the masses, as the pricing of fuel affects the pricing of most, if not all other goods and services. The price of electricity has a similar impact.

The election campaign program of Buhari in 2015 included ending the subsidy of the private sector importation of fuel. This was to be replaced with the subsidy of state-led production and distribution of fuel. He tagged the import-subsidy parity regime as corruption. Hence, he said there was no subsidy anywhere on fuel, but it was only corruption that was being subsidised.

He promised to build more state-owned refineries that would process crude, not only to satisfy domestic need but to export fuel to other countries. He claimed he would take the fight against corruption to the oil sector.

He has not been able to do this. He is in the shackles of the powerful forces who have now put the Petroleum Industry Act in place. They have by so doing legitimized private sector control of the sector and removed state ownership and control of both the upstream and downstream processes.

While state-led ownership and control is not necessarily a socialist program, it is the least, the minimum we should demand to be able to protect the living standards of the mass of the people.

State provisioning of education and health is similarly not necessarily a socialist demand but it is the least, the minimum we must demand. Funding of public healthcare and public education makes sense only under public/state ownership. The same principle applies to fuel pricing in my opinion.

Over the last generation, at least primary education and health have been privatised. A generation ago, most people were born in public hospitals and attended public schools. For those who are lucky enough to have reasonable jobs, their children are now born in private hospitals and educated in private schools.

As a result, the rich are able to afford to buy reasonable health and education for their children whilst the poor are denied both. Similar developments have taken place in other countries. In the US for example, despite the extensions of health insurance under Obamacare, in 2020 28 million Americans did not have any health insurance and so were denied access to decent health facilities.

We need to campaign vigorously against any price increases for fuel or electricity as this has a detrimental impact on the living standards of the mass of the population. If this means a return to subsidies, so be it. Similarly, we need to move back to a situation where health and education are provided on the basis of need rather than ability to pay.

Such developments would begin to reduce the huge levels of inequality, poverty, associated corruption and resulting insecurity that we are all now suffering.

For more details of the NLC and TPAP-M protests see: <https://nationalrecord.com.ng/mass-protests-tpap-m-writes-trade-unions/>

Increased Inequality in the time of Covid

The World Inequality Report 2022 again shows that inequality is growing across the world. Between 1995 and 2021, the richest one percent captured 38% of the global increment in wealth, while the bottom 50% captured a frightening 2%. The richest people on the planet have seen their wealth grow even faster. In contrast the share of income of the poorest half of the world is about half the level it was in 1820. A major change since 1980 is that between country inequality has greatly diminished and within country inequality has greatly increased. Two thirds of inequality is now due to differences within individual countries. In Nigeria, the average income is said to be almost N160,000 a month, whilst the poorest half of people exist on an average of less than N50,000.

The position of women is generally worse as they receive only around 28% of the income, the same as the average for sub-Saharan Africa where it is improving only slowly.

For more details see: <https://wir2022.wid.world>

Reproductive Health and Safe Abortion Campaign

– *Sisi Afrika*

At least half a million unsafe abortions are performed yearly in Nigeria. We use the term "unsafe" because all abortions are illegal and women are forced to seek abortions from quacks, thereby putting their lives at risk.

It is on this note that a campaign has been launched to combat the high mortality rates of women dying from not having access to safe reproductive medical care. The name of the campaign is: Reproductive Health and Safe Abortion Campaign.

This campaign held her inaugural meeting bringing together people from various walks of life in December. We democratically discussed the best approach to the issues around abortion rights.

Many comrades from trade unions and left organisations participated in the meeting. There were also radical feminists who were motivated to be part of the campaign because of its importance for bodily autonomy. The meeting generally approved of the proposals for a campaign on abortion rights with many of the comrades offering their own perspectives in support of the campaign. A five-woman leadership was nominated and this led to a resolution to put together a proposed action plan for the campaign.

The action plan was drafted by the Secretariat and completed with the input of the leadership. One of the significant proposals of the plan is to add "Reproductive Health" to the name of the campaign.

The next meeting on the action plan will be held by Zoom on 15th January. Conversations have already started on the general WhatsApp group created for the campaign.

The general aim of this campaign is to get abortion legalized, create awareness and sensitization about sex education, destigmatize sex, make reproductive healthcare easily accessible for women (and men alike in cases of vasectomies) and emphasize the importance of body autonomy for women.

This is the link to the WhatsApp group if you would like to be part of the campaign.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CF9gIYCMFut35HGO5K3k8f> or <https://tinyurl.com/safeabortiong>

Climate Change and Profits *John Lennon*

The UN chief Guterres talks about creating a more equitable world with sustainable development. He said the business case for renewable energy is getting better with the cost of wind and solar plummeting over the last decade. The US has payback figures around eight years for solar investments. In the tropics one would expect substantially shorter periods. In Jamaica it is said to be only four years.

However, the change is not happening fast enough to prevent the catastrophic effect of climate change – desertification in the north, flooding and coastal erosion in the south of Nigeria. The problem is that our economic system operates on what is profitable, based on vested interests. The oil industry has been spreading misinformation about climate change for fifty years or more. They want to protect their continued profits.

When one considers the socio-economic benefits it becomes a no brainer. In Jamaica two schools that are partially solar powered by charitable donations, reported pay back periods of under a year and one of them had monthly electricity bills of around US\$32,000!

Needless to say education is grossly underfunded and not fit for purpose. Electricity bills are one of the primary reasons for school fees and an educational system best described as apartheid. This is ultimately the driving force behind the perpetuation of poverty. Affordable education of a decent standard should be a human right but this is not necessarily profitable. To achieve this we need a system that is built around human need rather than what is just profitable.

The fact is fossil fuels cannot compete with renewables throughout the tropics. So why aren't tropical nations covered in solar panels, wind turbines and waste-to-energy plants? Why doesn't the IMF and World Bank lend for such projects?

State investment in renewables would transform our economies. Processing would add value to coffee, cocoa, minerals etc. Manufacturing would create employment and dramatically reduce imports. Free/cheap energy would attract investors and new industries would be created. Money would be available to finance quality education for all and create an educated population.... the list goes on.

This would create stability, drastically reduce migration and the needless deaths from drowning as Africans try to cross the Mediterranean. It would also end dependence on aid and charity.

Guterres' UN and the western businesses are prepared to allow the continued destruction of the planet whilst they wait for the right economic environment for a capitalist green new deal. The next generation will not forgive us if we allow this to continue to happen.

For more on this topic from John see: <https://www.conservationguide.org/news/renewables-the-economic-liberation-of-africa-ex-colonies>

Devastation of Ilaje Coastline - *Alexander Mesogboriwon*

One of the major factors leading to climate change is the oil industry operating onshore-offshore coastline. This is causing serious damage to the environment by loss of low lying land to the sea, oil pollution and devastation to the local fishing industry of Ilaje land.

Ilaje occupies the southern part of Ondo State, but also Ogun, Lagos, and Delta states. They are a subgroup of the Yoruba people, but speak a separate language.

They suffer from perennial sea surges, especially over the last three years. The most serious incident was in November 2020, when over 2,000 people were displaced and more than 200 houses were destroyed in Awoye. Between 2019 and September 2020, Mese and Gbagira were also completely wiped out by the surges.



Remains of the Awoye community wiped by a sea surge

Many other notable communities have been adversely eroded by sea incursion. Communities like Ayetoro, Abereke, Odofado, Molutehin just to mention a few have been eroded and become lagoons. Two contracts were awarded for shore protection at Ayetoro by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2004 and 2009. Mobilisation fees of millions of naira were paid in each case. Twelve years later, the Atlantic Ocean, which was formerly about three to five kilometres away, encroached on Ayetoro shorelines. The aftermath is the constant flooding of the community that has washed away homes, the cemetery and the iconic worship centre of the town.

Ilaje falls under the Niger-Delta which is easily one of the most oil polluted regions in the world. There are many oil spillages without cleaning up. Little or nothing has ever been done by the oil companies and the government to protect the environment. The Ilaje people are suffering from the degradation of the land as well as its loss to the sea. Their water has been polluted. As a result, they live on water but have none to safely drink.

High sea fishing which is the dominant occupation of the Ilajes has also been seriously affected. For indigenous ship operators, the activities of foreign trawler firms has left fishing resources depleted and over-plundered. The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Department of the Federal Fisheries Department was created, yet no budgetary allocation has been made to it in the last 15 years.

For more details see the following article from Premium Times: <https://tinyurl.com/y49zt5re>

Socialist Labour Public Meeting on Climate Change

Each month Socialist Labour holds a public meeting by Zoom.

Last month the meeting was on COP26 - Climate Change in Africa – what can we do to avoid catastrophe? The speakers included Chukwunyere Kamalu (Earth Scientist), Chima Williams (Environmental Rights Action), Sarpong Hammond Antwi (researcher on water-energy-climate), Makaylay Saidiatu Sonda (feminist activist) and Hindolo Pokawa (Sierra Leone Foundation for New Democracy). A recording of this meeting is available from Facebook:

<https://fb.watch/ai-1dbswUe/>

#jointheresistance

Nembe Oil Spill – Ibukun Omole

Between 1st November and 8th December 2021, an oil spill at a wellhead in the Bassambiri Community, Nembe, Bayelsa State was spewing oil into the surrounding creeks. According to the Governor of Bayelsa State this was the worst oil spill in his lifetime. The oil field, OML 29 is a joint venture of Aiteo E&P Co and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). Aiteo, founded by Benedict Peters from Delta State, is the largest indigenous oil firm in the country. He was accused by the Pandora Papers exposure of corrupt oil deals with former petroleum minister; Minister Alison Madueke.



According to a resolution of the Nigerian Senate, a whopping 2 million barrels of hydrocarbon and gas spilled into the environment (a hundred times the total spills in 2020). An official Joint Inspection Visit did not take place until 22nd December and its findings have been rejected by the State Bayelsa authorities. It took a protest and press conference on 6th December of local communities to force the Aiteo management to put a stop to the spill. The area has now been sealed off by the military.

Bayelsa State Government Technical Committee, consisting of regulatory bodies investigating the spill, said that it was caused by equipment failure.

Aiteo E&P Co have a court case against Shell over the quality of the equipment that they purchased from the international oil company in 2015. There were previous spills in 2018 and 2019 from the same wellhead.

Nengi James, a local activist, said NOSDRA and NUPRC are toothless regulatory agencies doing the bidding of the oil companies. Chima Williams of Environmental Rights Action dismissed the JIV report. “The report released by NOSDRA and NUPRC is unfounded. It has no empirical evidence. The wing wave valve and other accessories were removed before the regulatory agencies got to the site. So the question is who removed them?”

Shell earned more than \$4 billion from oil and gas production in Nigeria in 2017. In the same year, an estimated 38 million litres of oil was spilt into the Niger Delta.

The result is an average life expectancy of 10 years below the national average and health issues including skin lesions, breathing problems and liver damage. Research has also exposed the link between oil spills in the Niger Delta and the death of thousands of babies annually.

The oil industry, including the local elite, profit whilst the people of Niger Delta remain impoverished; their land destroyed, and livelihoods ruined. We need end oil spillages, gas flaring and the end of the contract culture that allows the local elite to benefit so much.

For more details see: <https://tinyurl.com/2p94jrtr>

And Ibukun’s longer article on the same subject: <https://nationalrecord.com.ng/who-owns-the-oil-by-omole-ibukun/>

Should Covid-19 vaccinations be compulsory?

– Alex Batubo

Cholera has killed more people this year than Covid ever has in Nigeria, but they are not demanding cholera vaccinations. The difference is that Covid can kill anyone whilst cholera only kills poor people. Malaria, again kills mainly poor people. It may kill as many people each week as Covid ever did in Nigeria. But again, the rich can protect themselves and so they don't care.

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. These included the following estimated weekly deaths:

- Lower respiratory infections – 5,500
- Neonatal conditions – 4,000
- Diarrhoeal diseases – 3,000
- Tuberculosis – 2,000
- Malaria – 2,000
- Maternal conditions - 1,000.

In 2001 African governments pledged to spend at least 15% of their budgets on health in the Abuja Declaration. President Buhari has increased the proportion spent on health from 4.2% for 2021 to 5% for 2022. At this rate it will take at least another 12 years to reach the 2001 target.

The Covid vaccination is safe and does stop those that catch the vaccine getting seriously ill and even dying. In Britain three quarters of the population have been vaccinated and half have had three injections. The result is almost no side effects and a dramatic drop in hospital admissions and deaths from the current third wave.

So it is good that Covid vaccination is being provided free, but banning people who do not take the vaccine from work is a great over-reaction. The government should spend more on public health and so protect the lives of poor people from the above major killers. Until the Government takes these responsibilities seriously we should not allow people to be banned from work for not having taken a Covid vaccination (whatever their reasons are).

It started with Edo State, then the Federal Government demanded that all civil servants should be vaccinated by 1st December. Kaduna said all workers are to be vaccinated by the end of October. The Federal Government demanded that all workers on Grade levels one to 12 be vaccinated before they were allowed to return to work in December.

The Association of Senior Civil Servant of Nigeria requested the government to give them till March 2022 to enable most workers get the jab.

For more on this topic see:

<https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/52426/No+job%2C+no+job+rules+puts+us+all+at+risk>

SOCIALIST LABOUR SUPPORTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE WORKERS STRIKE

Socialist Labour sends solidarity and support to the Joint Research and Allied Institutions Sector Unions (JORAISU) almost three month strike. Since 12th October 2021, workers in 67 research institutes nationwide have been on an indefinite strike over the failure by the Federal Government to fully implement agreement reached with the unions in 2010.

We demand that the Federal Governments immediately agrees to the just demands of the research workers, and implement the 2010 agreement. We call on the striking workers to remain steadfast and united until their just demands are met.

Socialist Labour also calls on its supporters to provide the necessary support and solidarity for the research workers involved. Finally, we call on other trade unions at the national level to provide support and offer the necessary solidarity action if the government refuses to settle in the very near future.

Trade union branches should send solidarity messages via Whatsapp to the President (08030933357) or Secretary (08037056585) of JORAISU.

HAIL ASUU SNAIL! - Bode Steve Ekundayo

I salute Naija lechora dem
 Threer gbosai for ASUU:
 Gbosai, gbosai, gbosai!
 Meyk una no gree'o!
 Meyk una no sorenda!
 We go reach the end of di mata
 Aso Rock no dey learn lesson
 Shebi una rememba say
 IBB, alias Maradona, im trai ASUU
 Come arest Festus Iyayi detain am
 E bound ASUU, come unbound am
 Bot las, las e fail yakata
 Abacha trai im own, esef fail yakata
 Obasanjo come come wit im gra-gra
 Dipo Fashina say na lie:
 'Oga General Baba Iyabo
 Dis tin you dey do no go work
 E work? E no work and e no go work!
 Goodluck Jonathan trai ooo
 So tay so tay so tay
 Dem kpai our Oga kpatakpata:
 Festus Iyayi, ASUU Leader No. 1
 Dem tink say ASUU go die
 Bot seven 'years don waka
 We stil dey kari gooo
 Nobodi waka, nobodi go solo
 Papa Godi' o, na Your grace' o;
 A dupe' ooo' we tank You'oo!

So, ASUU, meyk una relax
 Buhari sef go soon pass where
 Im senior dem kari ASUU mata pass
 Book peepul dey show dem light
 Bot dem dey strogul to enta darkness
 Now na, Naija don skata dey rotten
 For their hand dem dey lukuluku
 Ha, ha, ha!
 Isorait'o! Na dem sabi' o
 One dey monkey go go market...

So, lechora meyk una no worry
 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 month, no salary
 'Chai! Dia is God'o! Dia is God'o!
 No kondishon pamanent for laif!
 Hunga no dey kill snail for forest!
 Na to seal im mouth
 With one kain white paper
 Dey hibernate dey wait for rain to fall!
 ASUU na snail, hunga no fit kill ASUU!
 As dem dey use hongra
 We don bikom snail dem
 If dem won crush us
 We go turn to breeze
 Who fit crush wind?
 ASUU, I salute una!
 No sorenda o, no sorenda!

Na solidariti for laif o!

Have you visited Iva Valley Books?
 2nd Floor, Labour House, Central Area, Abuja



The workers' movement, revolution and counter-revolution in Egypt

By Mostafa Bassiouny and Anne Alexander

Mostafa Bassiouny and Anne Alexander explain that discussions of the Egyptian Revolution in 2011 rarely mention the workers' movement, focusing instead on the idea of a social media-fuelled youth rebellion. In a long-read they argue that any attempt to understand the course of the revolution must necessarily grapple with the role of the workers' movement.



Directly after the downfall of Mubarak on 11 February 2011, workers' struggles appeared as an independent factor in the revolutionary process, distinct from the youth of Tahrir Square or social media activists or even the political forces opposing the regime. Despite the exit of protesters from Tahrir and increasing calls on Egyptians by prominent political figures for them to 'return to work', and 'restart the wheel of production', millions of workers trans-

mitted the revolution into their workplaces. Fierce battles against 'the remnants of the regime' spread throughout government institutions and across the public and private sectors. These strikes and protests continued the wave of workers' struggles which had begun before the fall of Mubarak, spreading to the subsidiaries of the Suez Canal Company, the Public Transport Authority in Cairo, Post Offices, government institutions, military production factories, media institutions belonging to the regime and other workplaces between 6 and 11 February.

The extension of the revolutionary struggle to the workplace challenged efforts by reformist forces, whether Islamist or liberal, to confine the meaning of 'revolution' within the limits of constitutional reform and the development of electoral mechanisms. Through their struggles to 'cleanse the institutions' workers discovered the impossibility of separating the political struggle against the former ruling party from the struggle for social justice.

Sometimes this discovery led to radical results: for example, in Manshiyet al-Bakri Hospital in Cairo, workers threw out the director and elected a new one, and strove to put in place mechanisms of direct rather than representative democracy, thus improving patient care. Cairo Airport workers forced the recruitment of a civilian director for the first time (as opposed to one from the military), and local government workers in Alexandria sacked an unelected general from his post as leader of the neighbourhood council. Teachers organized one of the biggest strikes in Egyptian history in September 2011, not only to improve their own pay and conditions but also to reform the curriculum and to end the burden of private lessons falling on citizens. These examples point to the importance of 'reciprocal action' between the economic and the political aspects of the class struggle, as Rosa Luxemburg outlined in *The Mass Strike*.

This blog-post argues that this process of reciprocal action played a pivotal role in the development of the revolutionary process in Egypt. It also argues that a way to understand the counter-revolution is to see it as reciprocal action in reverse, where the political aspect of the class struggle tends towards the reproduction of tyranny and the mechanisms of repression and exploitation, as could be seen in Egypt from the autumn of 2012 onwards.

For the rest of this article go to:

<https://roape.net/2021/11/17/the-workers-movement-revolution-and-counter-revolution-in-egypt/>

Mass Protests Continue in Sudan

The mass protests in Sudan continued over the holiday season against military dictatorship. These struggles have continued for over three years, below we provide a timeline for this action:

December 2018: Revolt begins against Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir.

April 2019: Fearing the scale of protests, the military announces Bashir has been removed. But the military stays in charge. Mass protests continue and in May workers hold a general strike. Sudan seems on the brink of revolution.

August 2019: Instead of building on protests to do away with the military, an agreement sees "power-sharing" between the military and the pro-democracy movement.

25 October 2021: A transitional agreement says the military should step aside, but they launch a coup. People respond with marches, strikes and street barricades.

21 November 2021: Deposed prime minister Abdalla Hamdok does a deal with the military leaders, but this agreement is rejected on the streets. However, the United Nations, Britain and the US urge activists to work with the new puppet government.

December 2021: Mass demonstrations continue despite intense repression.

2 January 2022: Prime minister again resigns.

For more background on the mass protests in Sudan, see:

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

Socialist Labour Depends on its Supporters for Finances

Socialist Labour depends on its members and supporters for funds. We need more financial support so that we can be more active, expand and grow. If you are able to make a modest financial contribution that would be really helpful. We would also like all readers of this Bulletin to consider fully joining Socialist Labour by paying monthly subscriptions.

The standard rate is N1,000 a month, with a lower rate of N500 for students or unemployed and N5,000 for higher paid comrades. We can all afford something - every little helps.

Please make your contributions to the following bank account:

First Bank Nig. Ltd. Account No. 3158880328

Account Name: Aborisade Albert Femi

The account is only used for Socialist Labour purposes.

Please join Socialist Labour, by submitting the following details:

Name: _____ **Email:** _____ **WhatsApp number:** _____

State: _____

Workplace address/university/school: _____

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Minimum suggested monthly subscription levels are:

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Summary of Workers Strikes - December 2021

We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes in your state or community.

The strike by the **Joint Research and Allied Institutions Sector Unions (JORAISU)** continued through the whole month spanning into its eleventh week. Workers in 67 research institutes nationwide have been on indefinite strike over the failure by the Federal Government to fully implement an agreement reached with the unions in 2010. Trade union branches should send solidarity messages via Whatsapp to the President (08030933357) or Secretary (08037056585) of JORAISU.

On December 1st, **NUT FCT Abuja** called off its teachers strike over unpaid entitlements of teachers by the FCTA and Area councils, after negotiations. Teachers, had closed all public schools, primary and secondary for five days from Wednesday, 17th November. Primary school teachers remained on strike from 25th November.

On 6th December, **members of electricity workers' union (NUEE), workers of the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC)** shut down electricity supply to six states and went on strike over the non-remission of their pension contributions. The strike won a substantial victory within two days with a change of management of the AEDC.

Non Academic Staff Union (NASU), alongside some other staff union members at the Taraba State University went on strike on 6th December over the non-payment of their October and November salaries. They had previously struck during October.

On December 20th, **Plateau State University chapter of the ASUU** commenced strike over improved welfare of workers and better working environment.

Pilots with the receivers of Arik Air went on strike on 21st December over working conditions (including wage disparity and workers welfare). Forty were given dismissal notices for not prosecuting the strike through the airline workers union, or serving a strike notice. The strike ended on 24th December.

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.