



Socialist Bulletin

A Monthly Publication from Socialist Labour

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JOIN SOCIALIST LABOUR IF YOU ARE ANGRY ABOUT NLC/TUC'S FAILURE TO STRIKE

We waited four months for the NLC/TUC to act. And then they called off their promised indefinite general strike for a few crumbs from the Government. You are right to be angry – we can do better than this! We need you to join *Socialist Labour* so that next time we are strong enough to hold the trade union leaders to account.

Our five main demands were:

- a decent minimum wage for all with annual increments!
- reversal of all hikes in university tuition fees!
- reversal of recent fuel price increases back to the last regulated price!
- payment of arrears of salary and pensions in relevant states!
- end, of “no work – no pay”; pay the ASUU strikers & others from last year!

All that the Government has offered is:

- N35,000 wage award for Federal workers from September
- compressed natural gas (CNG) to commence operations
- reconsideration of paying tertiary education workers for last year's strike
- governors urged to give state and local government workers a wage award
- refinery to start working in December with labour in the committee
- cash transfer of N25,000 to 15 million poor people.

The minimum wage has been increased only once in more than 12 years. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) says that, like in most countries, it should be increased every year. The N35,000 /month for a wage award is far too low and does not capture the general increase in the cost of living due to the petrol price hike. Even the TUC was asking for a minimum wage of N200,000 and this is far too low.

It is excellent that we have won a rethink on “no work – no pay”. But when will the tertiary education workers be paid for their strikes last year?

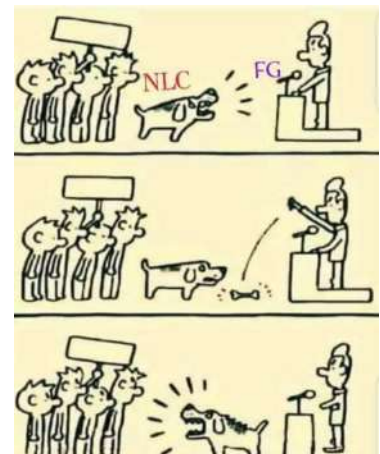
Urging governors to pay state and local government workers a wage award will not guarantee that the wage award is paid. At least 11 states have not yet fully implemented the minimum wage and many more have arrears of salaries and/or pensions. It is not lack of money in the states, it is the greed of the Governors. It is difficult for them to loot from payroll so they do not like to pay it. All state governments have plenty of money - FAAC last week distributed a record amount of N1.1 trillion and the price of oil is nearly back to \$100.

We need the horrendous tripling of the price of petrol to be reversed. We also need the cost of kerosene and cooking gas to be reduced.

Cash transfers to the ‘poor’ are just another means for the politicians to loot. Who do you know who has actually ever received any cash transfers from the Government?

If this latest last minute suspension of a promised general strike makes you frustrated and upset then join *Socialist Labour* by clicking on this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KiOyN3OKGBIIvtuh0ycDaU>

Visit: socialistlabour.com.ng

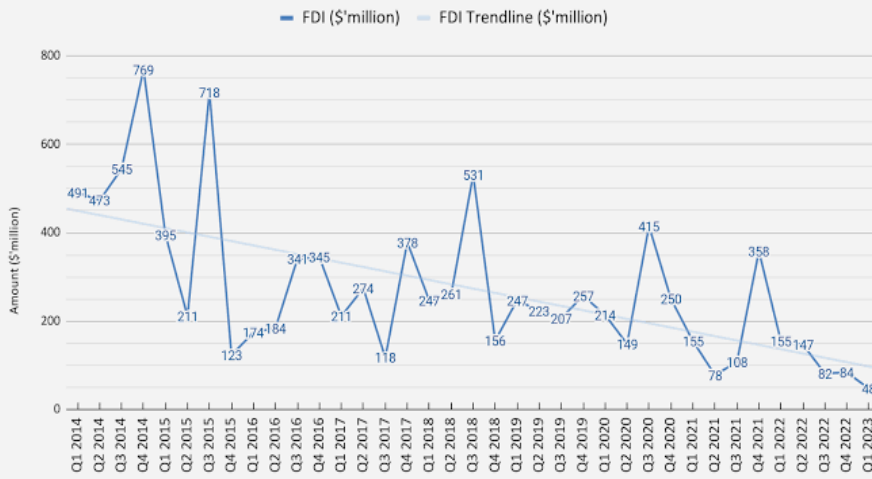


FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS - ALL THE NOISE OVER ATTRACTING THEM

by Boney Akaeze

FDI inflow into Nigeria has been on the decline for years

Foreign Direct Investment inflow to Nigeria Q1 2014 - Q1 2023 (\$'million)



Source: NBS I Chart: Dataphyte

Tinubu is adopting free market neoliberal policies like ending fuel subsidy and foreign exchange controls. This is in the hope of attracting foreign capital to invest in Nigeria. Capitalist businesses are not charities. They are money-making ventures. You don't persuade them to come to your domain, they scramble for it.

They are like nomadic cattle herders, they seek grazing fields wherever it exists. According to the erudite sociologist; Daniel Offiong, the relationship between capitalist investors and

their host communities is like that between a herder and a grazing field. When the climate is favourable, the field will furnish the herder with the grass needed to feed his herds of cattle, and while the grazing lasts, the droppings from the herds will fertilize the field. However; if the climate happens to become unfavourable perhaps due to prolonged drought, and the grass withers, the herder will migrate in search of greener grass, leaving the drought-impacted field desolate.

It is in the same vain, that foreign capital responds to the stimulus of a favourable investment climate. Therefore, the natural and most sustainable way to attract investors to an economy is to make that country a preferred destination for businesses. This is achieved not through begging and preaching, but through the reign of the rule of law guaranteed by an independent, impartial, and incorruptible judiciary.

The other factors are political stability manifested in a functional democracy as well as active, creative, and knowledgeable citizenry. This rests on a solid and functional education and health care delivery systems etc. When the environment is attractive, you won't need to transverse the globe on an endless mission of sermonizing to investors to come to your country rather, investors will scramble for a space in your territory.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is fundamentally about grabbing of economic opportunities in foreign lands. It is never part of a solidarity economy. To date, international politics and foreign relations are essentially dominated by capitalist industrial and commercial diplomacy. It is a feverish game in which countries either compete or co-operate.

The political leaders must therefore tell no lies and seek no easy victories. We must turn away from the actions and tendencies that have cannibalized and buffeted our country in more ways than one. We must heal our land from perfidious and incendiary politics, as well as from vicious and unscrupulous behaviours. We must take to heart those words of Chakravati Rajagopalachari that "when politics stumbles, the country pays dearly".

We must emancipate ourselves from our mental slavery. We have many examples to learn from in world history. When there is a will, there is always a way. Foreign direct investment is no short-cut, we still need good governance and decent public education and health services.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

Izielen Agbon

Unemployment in Nigeria was reported at only 4.1% in August 2023. Under the new definition, used by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) people above 15 years are considered as workers. The present estimated population of Nigeria is 220 million and nearly 60% (130 million) of this population is above 15 years old. Employed workers were defined as those who received monetary wages in the labour market or profit in the commodity market. Workers searching for work or not making a profit were defined as unemployed. Non-profit economic activities include raising children and all housework.

The search for employment or the pursuit of non-profit economic activities, like housework, are very intense and hard work. However, these are not considered as employment. Workers who worked for less than 40 hours a week are considered to be underemployed. Thus, NBS estimated that about 125 million workers were engaged in economic activities where their labour power was exchanged for monetary wages or consumed for profit generating purposes. The difference between the NBS old and new methodologies are outlined below.

Item	Old Methodology	New Methodology
Working Age Population	Persons aged 15 – 64 years	persons aged 15 years and above.
Employment	All those of working age population who were engaged in any activity that produce goods or provide services for a minimum of 20 hours in the reference period.	All those of working age population who during the reference period were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit.
Labour Force	Working Age Population (15 – 64 years) that are employed and unemployed	Working Age Population (15 years and above) that are employed and unemployed
Unemployed	Worked below 20 hours or did not work but searching and available in the reference week	Not in employment, actively searching and available (did nothing for pay or profit)
Under-employed	Worked between 20 and 39 hours in a week	Worked less than 40 hours hours <i>willing and available for more work</i>
Questionnaire	13 th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) model questionnaire	19 th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) model questionnaire
Periodicity	Cross sectional (One off data collection)	Continuous – throughout the year (Longitudinal)
Sample Size	33,300 Households Quarterly	35,520 Households spread across 12 months
Data Collection	17 – 21 Days every quarter	Continuously for 12 months
Employment in Agriculture	Recorded as employed if 20 hourly thresholds met	A distinction is made between commercial and subsistence agriculture
Reporting	Quarterly National and State levels estimate	Quarterly National and yearly State levels estimate
Employment	All those of working age population who were engaged in any activity that produce goods or provide services for a minimum of 20 hours in the reference period.	All those of working age population who during the reference period were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit.
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Although 125 million Nigerians were working, most of them were very poor. In August 2023, 65% of Nigerians (145 million) lived in multidimensional poverty. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDI) measure 3 dimensions of the sustainable development. These include health, education and living standards.

The indicators for health are nutrition and child mortality. Those for education are years of schooling and school attendance. The indicators for living standards are cooking fuel, improved sanitation, safe drinking water, electricity, flooring, and asset ownership. The nutrition and child mortality indices has sharply increased since the Tinubu administration took power due to the increase in the price of petrol and the floating of the Naira.

Inflation in August 2023 was 25.8% compared to 20.5% in August 2022. The highest increases occurred with food items. The CPI for food items (2009=100) was over 800 in many state.

#jointheresistance

Many doctors continue to leave the country. The Nigeria Medical Association estimates that 50 doctors leave every week due to the rising cost of living, low wages and poor working conditions.

The Years of schooling and school attendance indices have also sharply declined due to the increase in school fees and transportation. The Tinubu education policies of higher fees and the re-introduction the failed 1972 Students' Loans Board Decree has thrown many youths out of school.

The poverty rate jumped to 65% compared to 51% in Niger, 25% in Ghana, 31% in Chad, 26% in Cameroon and 20% in Benin. Workers are poor despite working 40 hours or more per week. Monetary wages are stagnant and minimum wages have only been increased once in the last 12 years.

A large part of the surplus value created by the workers is appropriated by the ruling class, the corrupt elite. It is imperative that workers must unite and struggle to overcome the capitalist system and its associated mass poverty amongst riches.

UNITED FRONT AS STRATEGY OF STRUGGLE

By Biodun Olamosu

The poor are divided and this makes it difficult for one group to successfully fight the capitalist class. Typical of this scenario was in the period of decolonisation when the working class and the nationalists combined, even when both did not represent the same interests. This type of rainbow coalition was why the result of the struggle was aborted. The new ruling classes upon independence formed governments on the basis of their capitalist interests in the image of the former colonial rule.

So the lesson of history is the need to develop a strategy that can win the struggle in the best interests of the working class. Hence the strategy of the united front that unites the popular forces for particular demands. Lenin referred to this as genuine democracy. The strategy unites various groups in action, protests etc. Whilst each has the right to argue for their respective positions; as long as they oppose the interests of the ruling class.

The largest united front is the trade union movement. This includes different tendencies, but they manage to survive in unity. Each of the tendencies is engaged in fighting for what they represent. Thus the labour centre, the NLC, was led at different times by socialists, centrists and right wingers.

The united front strategy was adopted in 1964 by the trade unions drawn from the four existing labour centres to agree in forming the Joint Action Committee (JAC). They combined to campaign together to increase workers' wages and improve their working conditions.

The annulment of the presidential election of June 12, 1993 by the military government led to a five year struggle. The movement included different groups including workers, students, civil society groups, women, socialists, professional politicians, etc. The mood was conducive for mass action as people felt provoked by the action of the military and the failure to transit to civil rule at least three times.

The Campaign for Democracy, the convener of the movement was mushroomed by the neoliberal led NGOs. They suggested a peaceful march with lighted candles around Lagos. But the socialist representatives at the meeting demanded for mass action and this carried the day. The success of the struggle on the first day encouraged other forces to join the struggle across the country.

Repression and a petty-bourgeois orientation of some leaders, who did not accept democratic decisions, led to the demise of the coalition. The same virus attended the coalitions such as United Action for Democracy (UAD) and the Joint Action Committee of Nigeria (JACON) that followed.

JACON included politicians organised on the platform of National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) (including the likes of Tinubu). This group wanted JACON to support the transition programme of the new military junta that succeeded Sanni Abacha. NADECO and UAD provided the necessary support and legitimacy for the new regime together with its transition programme.

The united front strategy cannot be equated with the Stalinist strategy of popular front. They are fundamentally different. The former stands for collaboration of groups that agree to fight together in defence of the interest of the working class; while the latter comprised of amorphous organisations drawn from different classes that stand for different interests. The betrayal coming from this mistaken way of organising has been our albatross. We therefore have many lessons to learn from this for the sake of the future period. Especially, as we are confronted today with a fight against the various anti-poor policies of the Tinubu led government.

HOW TINUBU GAINED AND MAINTAINS HIS WEALTH

If you enjoy gossip, you may like to read the following on how Tinubu managed to get the money to become governor of Lagos State. The author, David Hundeyin is now a refugee in Ghana facing the threat of deportation back to Nigeria: <https://westafricaweekly.substack.com/p/bola-ahmed-tinubu-from-drug-lord>



Alpha Beta Consulting has been a parasite in the life of Lagos State, rendering services that agencies of government ought to render and being handsomely rewarded for the same. The committee members who recommended the award of the contract to ABC included Wale Edun, former Lagos State Commissioner for Finance (now Minister of Finance & Coordinating Minister of the Economy) and former Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Cardoso (now appointed Governor of the CBN). Is this a case from Lagos State capture to National state capture? More details are in the following article:

<https://saharareporters.com/2022/06/08/corruption-allegations-against-tinubu-linger-70-year-old-ex-lagos-governor-becomes-ruling>

MILITARY COUPS IN AFRICA: THE LEFT, THE WORKING CLASS AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HISTORICAL AMNESIA by Osagyefo

The recent spate of military takeovers in Africa have posed a sharp question for the left in Africa: should they support these soldiers? Some of these soldiers, especially in the Sahel region, have tapped into an anti-imperialist, anti-French feeling running through the mass of people, opportunistically many may say.

The failure of governance and the absence of the dividends of democracy for the working people has soured many towards bourgeois democracy. This has created a very fertile ground for the resurgence of “men in khaki” seizing power.



Although the general consensus on the left is that military coups whether of the left, centre or the right are not really progressive, this question of whether or not to collaborate with military regimes sounding off with left rhetoric cannot be posed in the abstract.

Milan Kundera described history as essentially “the struggle of memory against forgetting”. Whilst Marx agrees that men (and women) make their own history but not in circumstances of their own choosing but in circumstances directly inherited from the past, a conscious understanding of the “circumstances directly inherited from the past” is necessary to avoid repeating history, first as tragedy and secondly as farce.

West Africa in the 1970’s and 1980’s witnessed the high tide of military vanguardism and the collaboration of the left with radical sounding soldiers. In Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Burkina Faso, sections of the left collaborated with military radicals. In essence they were eschewing the hard work of organising working people, looking for short cuts to power. This was an unmitigated disaster.

These armies hierarchical in nature, based on command, jealously guarding their monopoly of the means of violence after a short honey moon turned their fire power on their leftist collaborators. Many were lucky to escape with their lives. The rancorous disputations, concerning the direction that society was to take, were not settled by debate, appealing to the mass of working people, but by use of violence by soldiers.

Even in Nigeria, many of the left felt that military vanguardism was a sure route to social liberation. The late Tunde Fatunde, then a lecturer at the University of Benin, wrote a much celebrated play entitled “No More Oil Boom”. The play was a coruscating put down of our putrid political economy but the *deus ex machina* of the play was a progressive coup launched by Captain Sanussi, obviously modelled on Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso.

Today, in the face of the poly-crisis facing humanity: economic retardation, the threat of species extinction and environmental degradation, the change that is necessary cannot be brought about through putschism, which involves a secret conspiracy among a few individuals to seize power on behalf of the mass of the people. The change required will involve the collective conscious power of working people, concretely intervening in history, shaping and building the necessary institutional capacity to control and rebuild society from below.

Niger: a time of uncertainty

PAUL MARTIAL

The July 26 coup in Niger came as a surprise. No one had seen it coming either inside the country or in the French or American government offices, although they are generally well informed about the situation in African countries. A paradox for a country which has just experienced its fifth coup d'état and as many attempts, not to mention the countless mood swings in the barracks...

In January 2023, four trade union centres in Niger undertook a 48 hour strike over demands made since 2012. These include the harmonization of allowances for all state employees, recruitment in education and health and raising of the minimum wage. The trade unions in Niger should be demanding the implementation of these demands especially now that France has removed her diplomats and agreed to remove her soldiers from Niger before the end of this year.

An English translation of the remainder of this detailed briefing from the French socialist magazine *Contre-temps* is available from the Socialist Labour website:

<https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/10/01/niger-a-time-of-uncertainty/>

Imperialists are Paper Tigers

Alex Batubo

Mao Tse Tung, the former Chinese leader, famously described the imperialists as paper tigers. What he meant was that the imperialist governments are not nearly as powerful as they appear.

The military coups in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have all demonstrated the weakness of French imperialism. The French Government has been largely helpless to respond to the popular demands for the removal of French armed forces from these countries.

Over the last year, in particular, the key imperialist governments of the US, France and Britain have failed to contain a rising strike wave across their own working classes. Far from being able to dictate to, or manage, their former colonies these governments are failing to contain mass protests in their own homes.

In the US workers are on strike—from Hollywood actors and writers to UAW members at the big three car manufacturers (and beyond)! Screen writers started a strike in May and they were joined by Hollywood film actors in July. The strike won a much improved offer for the writers and they were voting on this offer as we went to press. For more details see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_SAG-AFTRA_strike

150,000 United Auto Workers union members started striking at the big three auto companies—General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis in mid-September. Estimates from one consulting firm suggest a ten-day strike at Stellantis alone could cost over \$1 billion. It would also be popular. An opinion poll showed the public would support the UAW strike by two to one. That's because it chimes with millions of US workers who are fed up with soaring profits while they are told to sacrifice and to suffer crippling health charges because their insurance is so poor. Average wages in the US have not increased in real terms since for the last fifty years.

These strikes send an important message to the rest of the labour movement in the US and across the world—that anyone can strike against profit-hungry bosses.

In France, there have been over a dozen days of protest since the beginning of the year. These are over attempts by the Government to reduce pension benefits and raise the pension age. In early July there were riots in several cities against the police murder of Nahel, a French Algerian teenager – reminding us of the #EndSARS protests in Nigeria.

In Britain there has been a strike wave over the last 18 months. Predominantly public sector workers have been striking for higher annual pay increases to compensate for a rise in inflation. This has included workers on the railways, the post, teachers, university lecturers, hospital workers and doctors.

The best way to show solidarity with these workers and to oppose the actions of their governments is to organise effective trade union action in our own countries. The trade unions in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger should take action to ensure that their members receive a fairer share of the wealth that they create. The most effective way for the NLC to oppose the imperialist paper tigers is to organise effective strike action against the Federal Government.

Spanish Women Fight Back Against Sexual Aggression



For most people the Over 80 Spanish women football players went on strike after Jenni Hermoso was kissed on the lips by the former Spanish FIFA President. 39 players maintained their stance, demanding more structural change.

For more details: <https://www.channelstv.com/?p=771766>

Women Again Under-Represented in the National Assembly



The 10th National Assembly has only 14 female members in the lower chamber and three in the upper chamber. This is the lowest since 1999 when only 15 were elected. How can we get the trade unions to take gender issues more seriously?

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/gender/611135-analysis-concerns-as-womens-representation-in-nigerian-parliament-declines-after-2023-elections.html>

Lack of Effective Contraception Increases the Number of Abortions

Nigeria may record 700,000 unwanted pregnancies in 2023 says the UNDP. With 300,000 additional abortions as family planning is not funded properly:

<https://punchng.com/nigeria-may-record-700000-unwanted-pregnancies-in-2023-undp>



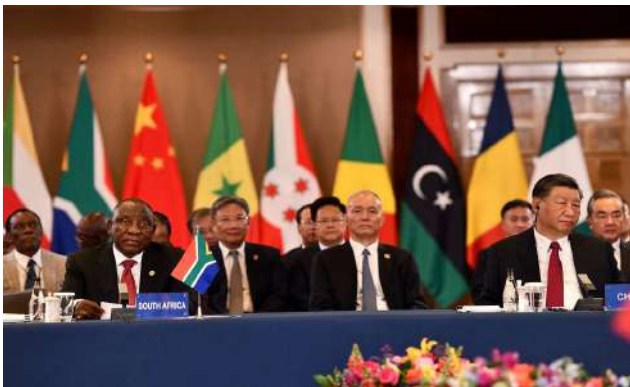
She was born in London of Nigerian Parents - now she is a leading space scientist

Maggie Aderin-Pocock: how a space-obsessed schoolgirl battled the odds to become a top British scientist and television personality. She still retains her life-long dream of going to space. "I still want to go," she beams. "It's my dream." And that, perhaps, is Aderin-Pocock's most fundamental message: we all need dreams.

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/sep/21/maggie-aderin-pocock-interview-bbc-nasa-space?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

DOES BRICS PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE IN A NEOLIBERAL WORLD?

In a world suffering from poverty and injustice we always hope for saviours. But with BRICS+ or the UN, "the world's most tyrannical and repressive regimes are seeking to collaborate and to bolster their power". We can only depend on our own collective power. Another world is possible, but we still have to build it.



South African working class activists protested at the BRICS summit. One of those protesting, Trevor Ngwane, said, "We were there to remind the world that these BRICS leaders who talk about the crimes of the US and its allies are themselves oppressing and exploiting their own populations.

"The Western imperialists are brutal robbers. But the BRICS leaders are not the solution. South African leader Cyril Ramaphosa was central to the slaughter

of miners at Marikana in 2012. Such people cannot be the future. Their anti-imperialism is not anti-capitalist. Down with Ramaphosa and India's Modi and Putin and the rest. Our allies are the workers of the whole world—in the poorer countries but also in the US and Europe and Britain."

<https://www.rs21.org.uk/2023/09/14/is-brics-an-anti-colonial-formation-worth-cheering-from-the-left-far-from-it/>

Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects

This recent book from the World Bank concludes that: “Across the world, a structural growth slowdown is underway: at current trends, the global potential growth rate... is expected to fall to a three-decade low over the remainder of the 2020s.” This is a pessimistic view for the World Bank, as it believes that poverty can only be reduced by economic growth (despite the problems of global heating etc). However, this strengthens our argument that what is really needed is redistribution of existing wealth (and power) from the already rich to the poor.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/publication/long-term-growth-prospects>



CULTURE AND LIBERATION

Culture is important for our liberation. Usman Binji and Ipogah Michael Iroboodu consider two aspects of our common culture. Usman first considers the importance of music, especially Reggae and Afrobeat, and their links to African liberation. Ipogah considers the historic loss of artistic skills with the example of the Benin bronzes (many of which still hang on a wall in the British Museum).

All our varied cultures, both historic and those of certain sections, like the youth, are important for our sense of worth. We need to preserve the historic skills of our craft people, our varied musical cultures and also, for example, our local languages <https://socialistlabour.com.ng/2023/09/28/culture-and-liberation/>

Climate Change – Why The Rich have to do so Much More!

African leaders adopted the Nairobi Declaration to drive green growth, mitigation and adaptation across Africa at the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in early September. They are following in the footsteps of many other countries talking about global heating at expensive conferences. This only makes things worse with all the carbon dioxide emitted by the delegates when travelling to the conference.

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/619856-breaking-african-leaders-announce-23-billion-nairobi-declaration-target-for-green-growth.html>

The main causes of climate change are the major oil companies, the burning of coal and the cement industries. These are concentrated in the industrialised countries, primarily in Europe, North America and Japan, but increasingly in China.

In contrast the major impacts are here, in Africa. In Nigeria, for example, the impacts of climate change have already been catastrophic and are set to become far worse in the coming decades. Lake Chad, in the north-east of Nigeria, is now only 5% of its size in 1960. This development, and the resulting poverty, was one of the main causes of the rise of Boko Haram. Across the rest of the north of Nigeria southern extension of the Sahara desert south is a significant contribution to the rise of insecurity. Across the Middlebelt and beyond climate change has reduced grazing for cattle and so added fuel to the farmer/herder conflicts. We have also suffered catastrophic floods and encroachment of the sea across the Niger Delta and beyond.

But Nigeria continues to emit carbon dioxide (CO₂) which will make things worse. Gas flaring in the Niger Delta makes a significant contribution to global heating. In 1969, the Government gave the oil companies five years to stop flaring. Now the Government has pledged to stop it by 2030!

The failure to provide public electricity means that generators emit huge quantities of CO₂. The lack of public transport means that private vehicles emit CO₂ and other dangerous gases that kill thousands of people each year.

#jointheresistance

At a global level, the fundamental problem is economic growth. This is hard wired in to our economic system. Capitalism needs global growth of at least 2% to 3% a year or a doubling every 23 years. This inevitably means more CO2 and so greater climate change.

The great Polish socialist, Rosa Luxemburg said the future would be socialism or barbarism. The environmental catastrophe has added a further dimension to this problem. If the global companies do not act now the future for us, and especially our children, will be bleak. The faster they act the easier it will be.

To read more on these issues see the following recent interview with Garath Dale who teach politics at a university in London:

<https://www.rs21.org.uk/2023/08/31/the-politics-of-degrowth-technology-ideology-and-the-fight-for-eco-socialism/>

A good article that explains the recent catastrophic floods in Libya that killed perhaps 3,000:

https://socialistworker.co.uk/international/libyan-horror-is-the-result-of-climate-change-and-natos-intervention/?mc_cid=d9ac93d7f3&mc_eid=b889291754

Free E-book: Class Struggle Unionism

When trade union members strike, they are not only struggling to improve their working conditions but also helping to rebuild our labour movement into a fighting, democratic force for a better society. They are fighting for the whole working class!

In Class Struggle Unionism, veteran union negotiator and labour lawyer Joe Burns argues for a powerful, radical form of unionism, which situates workplace fights squarely within a larger struggle between workers and the exploiting, billionaire class. Drawing on years of labour activism and study of labour history, Burns outlines the key set of ideas common to class struggle unionism and shows how they can create a more militant, democratic, and fighting labour movement.

Download Class Struggle Unionism today, share it with your comrades and co-workers, and join the fight to transform and strengthen our labour movement!

<https://ivavalleybooks.com/2022/08/17/class-struggle-unionism-by-joe-burns/>

Workers Strikes during September 2023

We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes in your state or community to drewpovey@btinternet.com All these strikes need our support and solidarity. We call on all trade union branches to send messages of support and to organise solidarity visits to any strikes in their localities.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) held a two day warning strike on 5/6th September. The major demand was that the Government should take steps “to address the excruciating mass suffering and impoverishment being experienced around the country.” The leadership of the NLC met with officials of the Ministry of Labour on 18th September. An indefinite general strike was called from 3rd October, 2023.

The Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) directed its members to work only two days a week from 19th July. COEASU is demanding a 200 percent increase in the salary of its members.

The primary teachers, members of the Nigerian Union of Teachers in the FCT held an indefinite strike from 11th September. This was over the non-implementation of the minimum wage, non-payment of full peculiar allowance and annual increment arrears. After the Minister of FCT intervened the strike was suspended for six weeks from 26th September to allow time for implementation of the demands.

Socialist Labour-JOIN US

The economic, environmental and Covid-19 crises show that society is a conflict between two classes: the vast majority who create the wealth, and a tiny minority who profit from our work. Reform attempts have failed: the only solution is 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 from 2019, begin to show what we need.

For more details of the basic ideas and policies of Socialist Labour see:

www.socialistlabour.com.ng/about-us/

Join the Socialist Labour supporters WhatsApp group by clicking this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KiOyN3OKGBllvtuh0ycDaU>

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. Please contact us via WhatsApp of 0916 693 3998

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

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: _____

Trade union: _____

Minimum suggested monthly subscription levels are:

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Well paid – N5,000

Unemployed/student – N500

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