



Socialist Bulletin

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THEY HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY – ACTION IS NEEDED TO GET OUR SHARE!



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Both governments and the private sector have plenty of money. But we still need more action from the trade unions if we are to get our fair share. FAAC allocations to state and Federal governments this year have increased by almost 30% compared to last year. Profits in the private sector are also increasing.

At its April meeting, the FAAC committee distributed N2.036 trillion. This was nearly 30% more than last year. The allocations in the first four meetings of this year are also nearly 30% more than last year. Oil revenue is expected to continue to increase over the coming months due to conflict in and around Iran.

The private sector is also doing well from Tinubu's reforms. The Independent Media and Policy Initiative has said that they have seen "economic rejuvenation: resuscitation and strengthening of the real sector of the economy".

As examples, they said that Guinness Nigeria Plc, reported a

profit in 2025, for the first time since 2023. Nigerian Breweries Plc also returned to profitability after two years. International Breweries Plc, the second biggest beer maker in Nigeria, also returned to profitability in 2025.

Dangote Cement Plc reported revenue up over 20 per cent from 2024. Seplat Energy Plc announced a 150 per cent increase in revenue over 2024 (but workers still had to strike to secure wage negotiations). Unilever Nigeria Plc saw its net profit double over the same period in 2024.

Similarly, MTN Nigeria Communications Plc and Airtel Africa Plc both declared profits last year that were far higher than their losses of the previous year.

Zenith Bank saw a slight increase in its profits after tax in 2025. As in 2024 these were in excess of N1 trillion. GT Bank saw profits of nearly N900 billion. UBA Group saw profits of over N400 billion in 2025. FCMB and Wema banks both saw their profits more than double last year compared to

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SOUTH AFRICA: ATTACKS ON NIGERIANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS

— By Amina Usman



South Africa has experienced numerous outbreaks of violence against foreigners, some of whom have lived in the country for decades. These xenophobic incidents are becoming increasingly frequent. They are fuelled by the economic and social crisis, but also by the actions of right wing politicians.

Poverty, constant power cuts, and the decay of public services exasperate a population to whom the political and financial elites, responsible for the state of the country, offer immigrants as scapegoats. This tactic is all the more effective because the fragmented and weak left is unable to propose a compelling alternative.

Like Nigeria, South Africa is a rich country with many poor people. On average, South Africa is much richer than Nigeria, but it is also one of the most unequal places on earth and unemployment is extremely high. The 2023 National Food and Nutrition Security Survey revealed that nearly two thirds of South African households suffered from food insecurity to varying degrees. This situation is steadily worsening.

Some right wing and extreme nationalist organisations do not hesitate to stigmatize nationals from other African countries. Many ANC leaders are also involved. For example, former Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor stated: “Many people from Nigeria are involved in drug trafficking in our country and are harming our youth by facilitating their access to drugs.”

As in Nigeria, if the trade unions are not providing an effective fight back, some people will blame the others – the northerners/southerners, foreigners or particular ethnic groups. The role of socialists is to try to unite the working peoples and provide a collective response to the elite who are stealing the wealth we create.

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They Have Plenty of Money... *Cont'd from Page 1*

the previous year. Fidelity Bank reported a 45 per cent increase in gross earnings for the 2025 financial year.

FCMB, Wema lead tier-2 banks with the highest profit growth in 2025

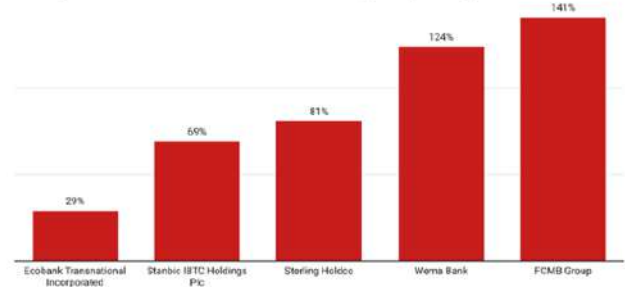
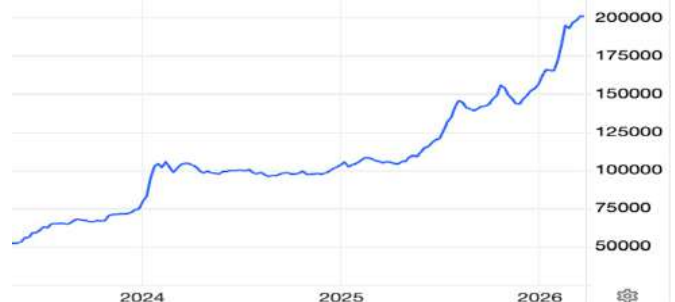


Chart: BusinessDay • Source: NGX • Created with Datawrapper

With the elections next year, there is an important argument for trade unions to take robust action now. FCT teachers only had to strike for a week this month - compared to three months last year (on the same issues). Similarly the doctors of NARD only had to strike for a day this month to apparently win their demands.

Another way to measure private sector profitability is to look at the Nigerian Stock Exchange all share index:



When Tinubu was sworn in on 29th May 2023, the all share index was nearly 54,000. It is now over 240,000 or over six times higher, as the above graph shows. In comparison, the same index only grew by 80% in the four years from May 2019 to May 2023.

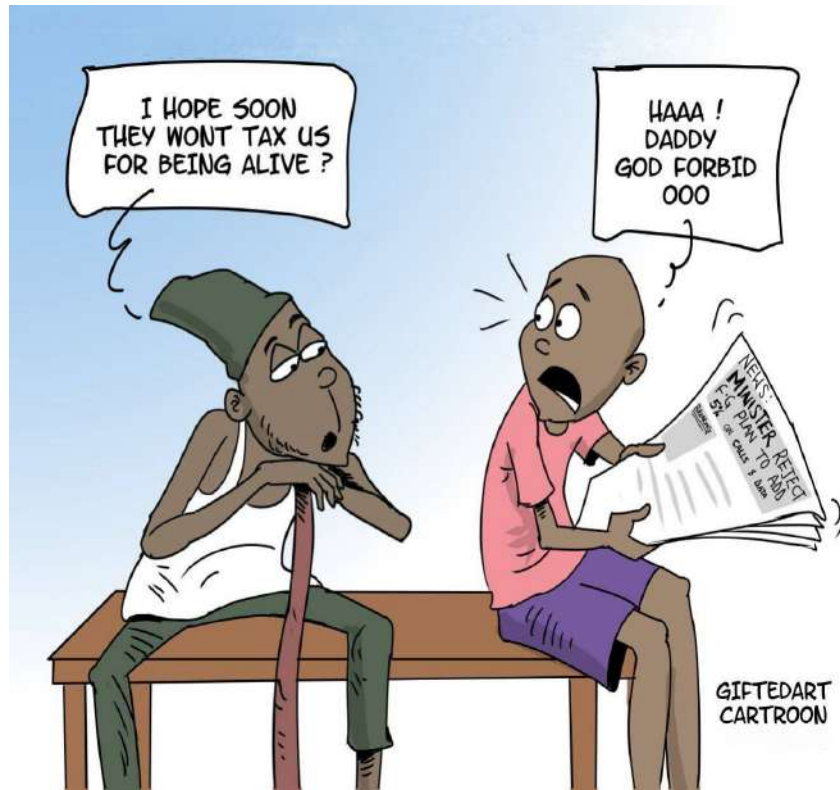
All these figures confirm the trends of recent years. Government income is growing and private sector companies are more profitable. But this wealth is being denied from the working class who actually create this wealth. More action is needed, especially in the run up to the elections next year, if we are to benefit. Trade unions should be confident that the money is available to pay for all their demands.

We need more comrades to be actively involved in their trade unions and demanding resolute action now. We also need to build organisations like LASCO and the Federal Workers Forum to support and give confidence to trade union leaders to lead robust action in the coming months.

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - By Izielen Agbon

President Tinubu sat in a deep comfortable chair at the Africa CEO Forum in Kagali, Rwanda and pontificated: “A citizen who pays taxes is a citizen, whether corporate or individual. If you are not a taxpayer and not exempted, then you are not a citizen”.

According to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, a person can become a Nigerian citizen by birth, registration or naturalization. Taxation is not a prerequisite to citizenship. A declaration that only



taxpayers are citizens is a gross display of ignorance of the foundations of our constitutional democracy.

President Tinubu further declared, “Taxation is not friendly to the wealthy, the middle class, or the poor. Everyone wants development, but the question they don’t answer is how the government pays for it.” This is the usual pedestrian bourgeois propaganda that the Tinubu regime pushes to excuse its creation of increasing multidimensional poverty among Nigerian workers.

Taxation is friendly to rich Nigerians. First, they make use of all tax breaks which are often designed to help them. Secondly, they pay little or no tax. Finally, they face no consequences for tax evasion. The rich ‘suffer’ one of the lowest rates of taxation in the world according to the IMF.

On the other hand, taxation is hostile to the working class. Workers are on fixed salaries and their taxes are withdrawn at source. They cannot evade taxation. The annual threshold for low-income earners in the Nigeria Tax Act 2025, is ₦800,000. Yet, the minimum wage is ₦840,000 per year. Therefore, all waged workers’ pay taxes.

The cornerstone of civic taxation is the social contract: citizens pay taxes, and in return, the state should provide public goods and services. Tinubu’s administration is trying to widen the tax base by including the poor and wretched in order to generate more revenue. This includes expanding the tax net to the informal sector, the farmers and the poor.

The Tinubu regime cannot explain what it has done with the savings from “fuel subsidy” removal, high crude oil revenue and huge loans from the IMF and World Bank. While President Tinubu stresses that taxation is necessary for development, systemic corruption, poor infrastructure, mismanagement and his failed neoliberal policies have severely eroded public confidence and trust.

The masses face increasing multidimensional poverty and underdevelopment. They see only poorer roads, infrastructure, electric supply, schools and hospitals with increasing government revenue. Therefore they want to know what government revenue from taxation and crude oil sales have been used for. There is a disconnect between the government’s aggressive tax drives and the lack of visible public services, accountability, and citizen input.

There are no representatives of the working class or the multi-dimensional poor in the National Assembly or the state house of assemblies. There are no poor citizens acting as local government chair persons. No political or ambassadorial positions are held by workers or citizens from the ranks of the multi-dimensional poor.

There is little development despite the billions of dollars obtained from crude oil sales, loans and taxation. This is taxation without representation and sustainable development. History teaches us that taxation without representation and sustainable development provides fertile ground for protest, uprisings and revolution.

EVENTS IN MALI SHOW THERE IS NO MILITARY SOLUTION TO INSECURITY

By Amina Usman



A rebel coalition almost took power in Mali at the end of April. This dramatic turn of events once again proves that there is no purely military solution to insecurity. The regimes in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria are losing the fight against insecurity because they refuse to confront the deeper causes — poverty and inequality.

The uprising, led by Islamist militants and the Touareg separatist group, spread across the capital and several cities. In the clashes, Mali's Minister of Defence and deputy leader of the military regime was killed, along with Modibo Koné, the junta's military intelligence chief. For three days after the attacks, Assimi Goïta, the military dictator who seized power in May 2021, made no public statement — a telling sign of the regime's weakness.

In Kidal, a key northern town, Russian and local soldiers were escorted from the army base and left the city. This followed months of rebel pressure, including a blockade that cut fuel supplies to Bamako, the capital. That blockade has now been tightened, further undermining the junta's grip.

Foreign involvement has been limited. Beyond the 2,500 Russian forces stationed in Mali and some support from Turkey and Iran, there is no evidence of significant external interference. Even the junta's allies in Burkina Faso and Niger chose not to intervene militarily.

The reality is stark: military dictatorships in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have done almost nothing to reduce the crushing poverty that fuels rising insecurity. Without jobs, good healthcare, education and equality, insecurity will only deepen. Armed uprisings are the inevitable result of regimes that rely on guns instead of addressing the needs of the people.

The lesson for Nigeria is undeniable. Unless mass poverty, unemployment, and inequality are tackled head on, insecurity will persist — no matter how much is spent on soldiers, weapons, or foreign alliances. Guns cannot silence empty stomachs. Real security will only come through investment in education, healthcare, housing, and a decent living wage.

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ARIEL BOMBARDMENTS ARE THE SIGN OF REAL TERRORISM

By Amina Usman

In the first 10 days of the US attack on Iran 20,000 non-military buildings were hit, among them almost 17,500 houses. On the first day, 150 girls were killed in a school in southern Iran that the American forces hit twice. This was against a country whose people Trump had promised to liberate. Good example.

The bombing allowed the theocratic government to mobilize the citizenry on the basis of nationalism. The regime came out of the war strengthened. In contrast, in January, the mass of the people were in open revolt against the regime.

In mid-May 2026, American bombers again attacked Nigeria. They claimed to have killed the ISIS leader, Abu-Bilal al-Minuki, who the Nigerian forces had previously claimed they had killed in early 2024. The next day the US held another bombing raid in Borno State. They say that 175 people were killed with few other details. So we do not know how many of these were innocent deaths.

At least four of the 16 cruise missiles used during the US bombing raid on Sokoto State last Christmas failed to reach their targets. Two landed in Kwara State, one in Niger State and one in a field near a village in Sokoto State.

The Nigerian Air Force is no more accurate than the Americans. Amnesty International says that more than 100 people were killed in an air attack on a market in Jilli village in Yobe State in mid-April, 2026. On 11th May a bombing raid may have killed a dozen civilians in Shiroro district of Niger State. Villages were bombed as fleeing insurgent passed through settlements in the early morning.

Since 2017, at least 17 incidents of accidental airstrikes have been documented by Dataphyte across seven northern states. These incidents resulted in over 300 reported civilian deaths.

All the evidence suggests that ariel bombardments are not accurate and result in high civilian casualties. As we said five years ago: "If the Government is reduced to bombing its own country it has really lost control and the risk of further civilian deaths is too great."

<https://tinyurl.com/3msu4z4d>

We need to demand that the US and Nigerian air attacks against Nigeria stop. We also need to demand that the Government addresses the underlying socio-economic causes of insecurity. History shows that military approaches can, at best, only be part of the solution.

ASUU-LASU 5: A STRUGGLE AGAINST VICTIMISATION

By Maxwell Adeyemi



Five union leaders dismissed on fabricated charges, a reinstatement order blocked by political interference, and their victimisers quietly welcomed back. The case of the ASUU-LASU 5 is a textbook anatomy of institutional repression.

When Professor Lanre Fagbohun assumed office as Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University in 2016, ASUU-LASU welcomed him with hope. That hope was quickly dispelled. The new administration appointed unqualified cronies as Heads of Departments, refused to conduct lawful elections into key university positions, and moved to cover up irregularities surrounding his own backdated promotion. ASUU-LASU raised the alarm — and for that, the union was targeted.

Between 2017 and 2019, five of the nine members of the ASUU-LASU Executive Council were dismissed, by the Adebayo Ninalowo led governing council, on charges that were transparently fabricated. The Chairperson, Dr. Isaac Oyewumi, was accused of a bribery scheme traced to a fictitious petitioner, the supposed victim had graduated years earlier. The Vice Chairperson, Dr. Adebowale Adeyemi-Suenu, was punished for “altering” results that witnesses confirmed were lawfully upgraded by a departmental board. The Treasurer, Dr. Oluwakemi Aboderin-Shonibare, was accused of illegally possessing her own promotion documents, after she petitioned for a backdating she was rightfully owed. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Drs. Tony Dansu and Adeolu Oyekan, were dismissed for granting media interviews and asking questions about the Vice-Chancellor’s irregular promotion letter. Meanwhile, Fagbohun illegally halted the deduction of ASUU check-off dues, strangling the union financially. Even a court ruling, which found the University had no lawful authority to proceed against the union officers was simply ignored.

The injustice did not end with Fagbohun’s tenure. In February 2022, the David Sunmoni-led Governing Council

reviewed the matter, found the dismissals unjust, and ordered immediate reinstatement. The very next day, a political directive from the Governor’s office put the decision on hold, pending a Visitation Panel report. That report was submitted in July 2022. Its White Paper has still not been released. In February 2025, the university went further in the wrong direction, converting the dismissals to compulsory retirement, a mechanism designed to permanently bar the five from public service and make the original punishment irreversible. Meanwhile, other lecturers implicated in the same panel’s investigations have been quietly reabsorbed into the university, without condition.

The hypocrisy is in plain sight: those who violated procedures are rewarded; those who resisted violations are destroyed. The ASUU-LASU 5 are not asking for favours. They are asking for the implementation of a decision their own Governing Council has already taken — unconditional reinstatement, full payment of accrued salaries and entitlements, and restoration of their rightful promotions and seniority. They have even offered to disengage after due restitution, confirming that this was always about principle, not personal gain.

This case is about more than five comrades. It is about whether workers who defend legality can be crushed by the institutions they sought to hold accountable, and whether political interference can override institutional justice indefinitely. Socialist Labour stands firmly with the ASUU-LASU 5 and calls on the Lagos State Government to release the Visitation Panel White Paper and implement the Governing Council’s reinstatement order without further delay. Their struggle is our struggle.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO SURVIVE? - By Tina Nkechi

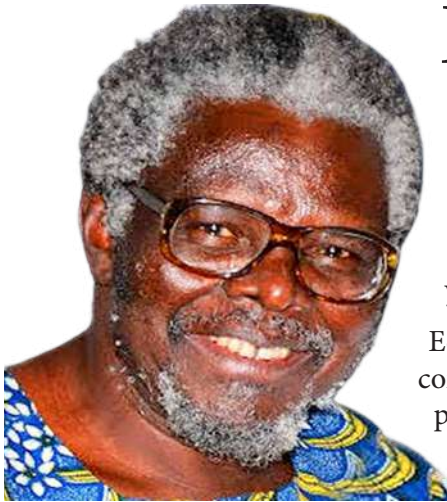
The election season is upon us. Many politicians are making promises for what they may do if elected next year. In addition, we have just had May Day when the trade union leaders made a series of demands. All these promises and demands should be distilled down three key areas. These are the minimum wage and public funding for health and education.

We need to campaign now for our trade unions to fight hard on these three fronts. We must also only give our votes to politicians who are clearly in favour of a decent minimum wage and proper funding for public health and education.

To read the full article see:

<https://tinyurl.com/humutuf9>

EDDIE MADUNAGU AT 80 – STILL TALKING THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE



Edwin “Eddie” Ikechukwu Madunagu, a mathematician, Marxist theorist, columnist, author and public intellectual, widely celebrated as the ‘father of the Nigerian Left’, clocked 80 May 15, 2026.

Eddie has been a committed revolutionary socialist since before he was 30 years old in 1976. He re-affirmed this path five years ago with his life partner, Bene, herself a passionate Marxist, renowned feminist and a professor of Botany when he was almost 75 years old. Unfortunately Bene died three years later.

Eddie explained what socialist commitment meant five years ago, it “is the commitment to what Karl Marx, in his youthful days, called “categorical imperatives,” that is, the “struggle to overcome all circumstances in which the human being is humiliated, enslaved, abandoned and despised.” And later added the commitment to struggle to extend immediate and unconditional solidarity to the “wretched of the earth” and ameliorate the human condition anywhere a professional revolutionary finds herself or himself. A professional revolutionary is thus a contradiction in the real word: simultaneous toughness and softness.”

Since the mid 70’s, Eddie, alongside his wife, Professor Bene and Eskor Toyo, set up the Marxist hub in Calabar known as Frantz Fanon Study Group specifically for the training of socialists and activists. This Group was known for instilling in students, grassroots mobilizing, socialist theory and public intellectualism. It is believed that Marxists and other activists should take into activism that could help change the society for the better and in the interest and benefit of the masses and downtrodden.

For five decades since then, Comrade Eddie remained with the masses, students, market women, trade unionists and the downtrodden in the vanguard for their welfare. Thus, over the decades when governments in Nigeria changes and the economic policies with it, Comrade Eddie remained steadfast utilising Marxist thoughts and principles to proffer solutions, plausible alternatives and hope for a better egalitarian society.

Though a Professor of mathematics and lecturer, Eddie, who came in contact very early with the writings and principles of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, V.I Lenin, Leon Trotsky and other socialist thinkers from Europe, Asia, Latin America and the African continent, wrote extensively on Marxism, mobilization and socialist revolutionary methods all aimed at instilling in younger generation the virtues of struggle to make the society a better place for the generality of the masses.

His books included:

- The Philosophy of Violence (1976)
- Tragedy of the Nigerian Socialist Movement (1980),

Problems of Socialism: The Nigerian Challenge (1983)

Most of this book remains relevant for those of us who are still building a socialist alternative. It is available for free download from:

<https://ivavalleybooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PROBLEMS-OF-SOCIALISM.pdf>

- Nigeria: The Economy and The People (1984)

Eddie also wrote weekly columns for the Guardian newspaper for more than three decades. Many of these have been collected in a series of books:

The Making and Unmaking of Nigeria 2001

Contradictions of Progress: Critical Essays in Defence of Socialism (2002)

Understanding Nigeria and the New Imperialism

Essays 2000-2006 (2006) <https://tinyurl.com/5n7ffjkb>

PREMIUM TIMES EDITORIAL: STOPPING RAMPANT POLICE KILLINGS!

On 18th May, the Premium Times carried an Editorial on police murder. This called for better training for the police, but ended saying, “Regrettably, there is little to hope for or cheer about in this regard!”

We can make a difference! The #End-SARS protests that are referred to in the Editorial did result in change, if not enough. But we have to recognise that the police



were established to keep the poor in their place. The main objective of the police force remains to protect the rich from the poor.

The Nigerian police force was established to maintain the peace for the colonialists. It was set up to ensure that poor majority were disciplined. In contrast, the colonialists shared power with the ruling elite through indirect rule. The local rulers were also allowed to have their own armed guards – state police may follow in this tradition.

Killings and murder by the police have been a problem since they were started. For example, in 1949, the police shot dead 22 striking miners at the Iva Valley Mine – see the following article for more details:

<https://tinyurl.com/3sshmc43>

In contrast, at least until earlier this year, perhaps a third of the police officers were deployed to protect VIP politicians, wealthy individuals, and celebrities. Even after Tinubu ordered this to end the practice continued.

We need to continue to build protests against police brutality and killings. But this will not finally end until we have a far fairer society and the police are re-established as a new force to provide services to all the people rather than just the rich elite.

<https://tinyurl.com/9xyn9jve>

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Eddie Madunagu At 80 ... *Cont'd from Page 6*

The Nigerian Left: Tributes and Criticisms (2016):

Five years ago when Eddie was 75, we collected nine of his then recent articles together to make them available to a wider public:

<https://tinyurl.com/dvv9zeyd>

Unfortunately, these were some of Eddie's latest columns. More recently he published the following articles in the Guardian:

<https://tinyurl.com/2x3zabr7>

<https://tinyurl.com/bdf9nw68>

<https://tinyurl.com/yb43n57x>

More of Eddie's writings along with those of other socialists are available from:

<https://socialistlibraryandarchives.org/>

WE WILL NEED LEFT UNITY TO DEFEAT TINUBU AND BUILD A PEOPLE-CENTRED NIGERIA



The experience of the 2023 elections and the political developments that have followed make one point increasingly unavoidable: if Nigeria's left, labour movement, and progressive forces remain divided, they will continue to struggle against entrenched elite dominance. The challenge is not simply about replacing one administration with another, but about building a political alternative capable of transforming the conditions of ordinary people—workers, young people, and rural communities whose lives are shaped by unemployment, inflation, weak public services, and widening inequality.

The current moment presents both a warning and an opportunity. Disunity has repeatedly weakened opposition forces, but the level of public dissatisfaction also creates space for something new. If the left and progressive forces can overcome their divisions and build a coherent, organised, and disciplined alliance, they can move from being fragmented voices of protest to becoming a credible force for national transformation.

To read the full article see:

<https://tinyurl.com/mt24nwaa>

THE LAST 3 DARK YEARS OF NIGERIA'S DEMOCRACY

By Abadom L. Amechi

On May 29, 2023, Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn in as Nigeria's President before the ink of celebratory banners had dried.



That same day, in his inaugural address, he announced the removal of the fuel subsidy,

a decision that immediately reordered the economic lives of over 200 million Nigerians. Three years on, as the administration prepares to mark that anniversary, a grim question hangs over the country: what exactly has been renewed in this era of "renewed hope"?

For a vast majority of Nigerians, the answer is painfully clear, nothing but hardship. Approximately 140 million citizens, nearly two-thirds of the population — subsist below the national poverty line, and the number is growing. A kilogram of cooking gas now costs ₦1,800. A litre of petrol sells for between ₦1,400 and ₦1,500. Getting sick has become a calculated risk. Our roads remain death traps, and our public schools continue their slow descent into irrelevance.

Yet even as ordinary Nigerians shoulder the crushing weight of these economic policies, the ruling class has found no cause for austerity in itself — a ₦21 billion Vice Presidential residence, a \$150 million presidential jet, ₦160 billion worth of SUVs for lawmakers, and a 48-member cabinet that would be obscene in any economy, let alone one in freefall.

Beyond the economy, the damage runs deeper. Democratic institutions — the judiciary, INEC, the EFCC — have lost the confidence of citizens who now regard them as instruments of presidential will rather than pillars of accountable governance. Political space has contracted, ethnic fault lines have widened dangerously, and insecurity rages from Ogbomoso to the North-West, with bandits and kidnappers operating as though the state has simply vacated the field.

In this searching and unflinching column, Abadom Lawrence Amechi takes stock of what three years of the Tinubu administration have meant for Nigeria's democratic project — its institutions, its people, and its future. His verdict is as sobering as the times demand.

To read the full article see:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhub973>

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DENIED BIRTH CONTROL, JAILED FOR ABORTION: NIGERIA'S POLICY PARADOX

- By Amina Usman



Nigeria's reproductive health policies reveal a stark and deadly contradiction. Women and girls are denied affordable access to contraceptives, yet face imprisonment if they attempt abortion. This paradox has left countless families grieving preventable deaths, as unsafe procedures and desperate measures claim young lives. The story of Diepreye Timi, an 18-year-old who died after attempting an at-home abortion with toxic substances, is not an isolated tragedy but part of a wider crisis.

Despite ratifying international treaties like the Maputo Protocol, Nigeria continues to criminalise abortion while slashing funding for family planning. In 2024 alone, limited contraceptive access led to 800,000 unwanted pregnancies, 300,000 unsafe abortions, and 10,000 preventable deaths. These are not just statistics — they represent futures stolen and families shattered.

This article explores how restrictive laws, cultural taboos, and chronic underfunding converge to entrench inequality and perpetuate maternal mortality. It argues that reproductive health is not a privilege but a fundamental right, and that Nigeria must shift from reactionary crisis management to preventive, rights-based policies.

<https://tinyurl.com/ycyasxpx>

MAY DAY WITHOUT WORKERS: A REFLECTION ON THE KADUNA RALLY - By Bashir Bello

The recent Kaduna rally organised by the Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress was orderly but underwhelming.

It went ahead as planned, but the low turnout raised questions about labour mobilisation in Nigeria. Despite the long wait for the governor, the programme ran without major disruption. Union leaders spoke for the workers, and the governor addressed the crowd. On the surface, it looked successful. Beneath it, a troubling reality showed.

The most striking thing was not what happened, but who was absent.

Instead of a mass convergence of workers, the crowd was dominated by union officials and leaders. The rank-and-file workers—those May Day is meant to celebrate—were largely missing. Many treated the day as a holiday, not a platform for collective action.

This shows a growing perception that May Day has become an affair for union elites, not workers. When workers see such events as distant or irrelevant, unions risk losing both their mobilising strength and moral authority.

A rally without workers is more than a logistical flaw; it's a warning sign. It signals a disconnect between leadership and the base, a weakening of solidarity, and a loss of faith in organised labour's ability to create change. When participation becomes symbolic, struggle becomes ritual—observed, but not lived.

The responsibility isn't only on workers. Economic hardship, disillusionment, and vague demands fuel apathy. If workers believe their presence won't yield results, staying home makes sense.

The challenge is clear: unions must re-engage their grassroots, rebuild trust, and turn May Day from ceremony into real expression of workers' power.

Until then, rallies like Kaduna's will hold, but they won't move.



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TRUMP AND XI MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF FORCES INTERNATIONALLY

The summit between the US and Chinese presidents in Beijing marked a real change in relations, which further highlights the decline of US imperialism, writes Chris Bamberg.

Although Trump called his trip to China a triumph, even right-wing media commentators and news outlets with ties to the US military industrial complex disagreed with him. These commentators claim that China sees itself as a co-owner of the international system, and the US increasingly treats China that way. As evidence of this, the US reversed its tariffs on China after China threatened to block the export of rare earth minerals needed by various US industries.

Xi, in his opening speech at the summit, noted that: (i) China's rise could provoke anxiety within and drive potential conflict with the US; and (ii) mishandling of Taiwan is a major issue that could drive the two nations to conflict. And Trump, in turn, has retreated from unconditional US support for Taiwan.

That said, the US remains strong militarily and financially, but its Pacific allies will undoubtedly be concerned about its dependability regarding their own relations with China. See the following article for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/mtc8vekw>



Summary of Workers Strikes - May 2026

We need your assistance to ensure that this monthly report is comprehensive. Please submit details of any strikes in your state or community. 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. To read more about how to organise effective strikes, see: <https://tinyurl.com/solidarityunity>

Members of the **Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN)**, Abia State chapter commenced an indefinite strike on 16th March. This was related to staff welfare, including leave allowances and independence of the judiciary in the state. The strike was suspended on 14th May after signing an MoU with the State Government that substantially meets the Union's demands.

The **Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)** and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU) began an indefinite strike on April 30. They were protesting the Federal Government's proposed 30 per cent salary increase, insisting on a 40 per cent adjustment through collective bargaining. The strike was suspended from 11th May following further negotiations.

The **Nigerian Medical Association in Akwa Ibom State** called a strike on 16th May after the invasion of Uyo Teaching Hospital by staff of the EFCC. The action was suspended following an "unprecedented" public apology by the chair of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on public television.

The **Academy Staff Union of Universities (ASUU)**, University of Cross River chapter commenced an indefinite strike on 20th May. This is about salary arrears, non-implementation of agreements reached with the national body and other issues.

Socialist Labour Depends on its Supporters for Finances

Socialist Labour depends on its members and supporters for finances. 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 ₦1,000 a month, **with a lower rate of ₦500 for students, pensioners or unemployed** and ₦5,000 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.

SOCIALIST LABOUR



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