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FIGHT AND WIN! THE WAY FORWARD FOR JOHESU



The success of any strike depends on the active involvement of all the members of the trade union. If all members are actively involved in building public support, then they are more likely to gain confidence and the strike is more likely to be successful. But if members remain at home, the collective strength of mass action is lost.

The solidarity shown by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trades Union Congress (TUC) to the JOHESU and FCTA strikes is wonderful. But the key to victory for these strikes will be the extent to which all the trade union members take part in mass rallies, pickets, and other forms of mass action.

The success of a strike depends on effective leadership at all levels, from organic leaders within branches to national leaders. The role of all such leaders is to organise members towards action.

The national leadership of JOHESU issued an important memo on 13th January. This is the key paragraph to the memo:

"In view of the continuation of the strike, the National Leadership directs that, monitoring and picketing should be strengthened across various organs of JOHESU."

We commend this call. However, JOHESU has been on strike for more than two months, with Federal Medical Centres and national hospitals shut down, yet the government has made no concessions. JOHESU must modify its strategy by ta-

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king the struggle directly to the masses. JOHESU, a coalition with hundreds of thousands of members, must ensure that the government does not trifle with an organisation of its strength.

The national leadership of JOHESU *should set the tone* by organising mass rallies in the FCT. JOHESU can organise 5,000-, 10,000-, and 20,000-member rallies in the FCT. One option is to begin with a rally of **1,000 members at the Federal Ministry of Health, then escalate to 5,000 members at the National Assembly**. The goal is to escalate until the government responds.

Effective rallies will require coordinating local and national leaders and activating members from states around the FCT. Regional leaders should act in tandem by organising regional rallies with **thousands of members in regional capitals**. JOHESU's member unions have massive financial resources and organising strength. National leadership must make the necessary resources available to ensure the strike is active, robust, and successful.

Such demonstrations of strength will motivate the JOHESU rank-and-file, reminding them they are not alone in this struggle. The ruling elites cannot ignore such demonstrations of strength. They also bring public attention to JOHESU's fight. Traditional media, internet influencers and the wider public

public cannot ignore rallies with thousands of members in strategic locations.

Branches at health institutions should be organising regular picketing to ensure that the strike remains effective. This should include regular communications and flyers for potential patients, explaining the reasons for the strike and why their support is important.

Townhall meetings should be organised locally in conjunction with other health trade unions and the NLC/TUC. Officials and members of locally important trade unions should be invited to these meetings. They should be requested to address these meetings to explain the importance of the strike to the members and the public.

JOHESU members at each institution on strike should organise delegations. These delegations should visit other local health institutions, local trade union offices and relevant state offices.

Each health institution that is on strike should organise a joint strike committee, including branch officers and other union members who want to play a more active role. These committees should organise daily activities — from pickets and rallies to social and recreational events — that keep members and their families engaged and together.

Organising in these ways will sustain workers' confidence, build public support, and make solidarity strike action with strong local organisation by the NLC and TUC more likely. All of this will bring our victory closer!

THEY CLEAN OUR STREETS, WE DENY THEIR DIGNITY

- By Maxwell Adeyemi



Street sweepers are the invisible workforce that keep our cities clean, yet they remain among the most neglected of workers. While recent testimonies from Lagos sweepers have drawn attention to harassment, unsafe conditions, and social stigma, these challenges are not confined to Lagos alone. Sweepers in Abuja and across every state face the same exploitation.

The reality is that sweepers nationwide are employed on insecure, non-permanent contracts. This precarious status denies them the stability and protections that permanent workers enjoy, and it makes unionisation difficult. Without collective bargaining power, they are left vulnerable to abuse from motorists, residents, and traders, while their employers can evade responsibility for improving conditions.

Even more troubling is the pay scale. Sweepers earn very low wages compared to the hazards they face daily — handling broken bottles, ritual items, even human remains, and enduring exposure to open defecation and toxic waste. They risk accidents on busy roads, yet emergency assistance is rarely available. The social cost of their labour is huge, but their compensation is inadequate. Despite the dangerous nature of their work, many street sweepers are women.

The Lagos State Government has introduced health insurance for sweepers, and similar measures have been promised elsewhere. But these steps, while welcome, do not address the deeper injustice: **sweepers are treated as disposable labour, despite performing an essential public service.**

Sweepers must be recognised as workers with rights. They deserve permanent contracts, fair wages, and union representation. Their struggle is not just about cleaner streets — it is about dignity, justice, and the value of labour itself.

Sweepers across Lagos, Abuja, and every state are not trash. They are workers. And they deserve to be seen, respected, and defended.

EXIT OF PETER OBI: A LITMUS TEST FOR THE LABOUR PARTY

By Bashir Bello

The exit of Peter Obi from the Labour Party marks a defining moment. It is a litmus test in the struggle of labour and the broader left to chart a new course for political emancipation.

Workers, including the informal sector and their families, constitute the bulk of the voting population. It is only through genuine identification with their material conditions, struggles, and aspirations that political forces can alter the direction of public policy in favour of the working class.



In the last general election, the Labour Party, like the Psalmist's rejected cornerstone, suddenly rose to national political relevance. In a dramatic and unexpected leap, it emerged as a major force in the presidential and federal legislative elections, securing a strong third position.

This political surge was attributed to several factors, though not to the strength of the labour movement itself. Some observers pointed to emotional and sentimental mobilization, often framed around ethnic and religious sentiments, others argued that the party's success was largely driven by the personality and popularity of its presidential candidate, whose political stature overshadowed the party's organisational structure.

Both interpretations may contain elements of truth. Yet one fact remains undeniable: Peter Obi contested under the banner of the Labour Party, a party historically established through the efforts of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and other labour organisations.

Looking ahead, what is required is not nostalgia, sentiment, or personality politics, but the emergence of a genuinely ideological Labour Party; one consciously rooted in Leftist principles, class consciousness, and social justice. Such a party must be:

- Ideologically driven, not personality-centred
- Structurally grounded in the left, with a clear political philosophy
- Cadre-based, built around disciplined, politically educated organisers

The NLC, the TUC, and affiliated labour bodies must form the institutional backbone of this project, providing leadership, structure, and legitimacy at all levels: from branch and ward structures to state and national leadership.

The Labour Party must undergo serious reorganisation - rebuilding its ranks, reactivating its structures, and deploying its cadres into every community, ward, and constituency across the country to mobilize genuine grassroots support.

Only through this process can a true workers' party emerge, not merely a platform for electoral contests, but a political movement capable of transforming power relations and advancing the historic struggle for social, economic, and political justice in Nigeria.

This moment is not just about Peter Obi's exit. It is about whether the Labour Party will remain an electoral vehicle, or become a transformational instrument of working-class emancipation.

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN EASTERN DRC

Since the occupation of Goma a year ago, fighting in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has continued. The Rwandan army is heavily supporting the March 23 Movement (M23) forces. Burundi is supporting the DRC forces. M23 forces also overran the city of Bukavu in February and briefly took control of Uvira in December last year. This was despite a peace agreement signed in Washington, US.

M23 control appears to have stabilised. This includes five border posts with both Rwanda and Uganda, and several Coltan and wolframite mines.

The resource-rich region has been plagued by conflict for more than thirty years. Many regional countries have been involved and have benefited from the natural resources of Eastern Congo. Whilst global powers are implicated as perhaps 20% of the world's Coltan comes from this region.

GLOBAL SYSTEMS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF MONEY CAPITAL

- Izielen Agbon

For more than half a century, the global movement of money capital was dominated by two institutions: the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS).

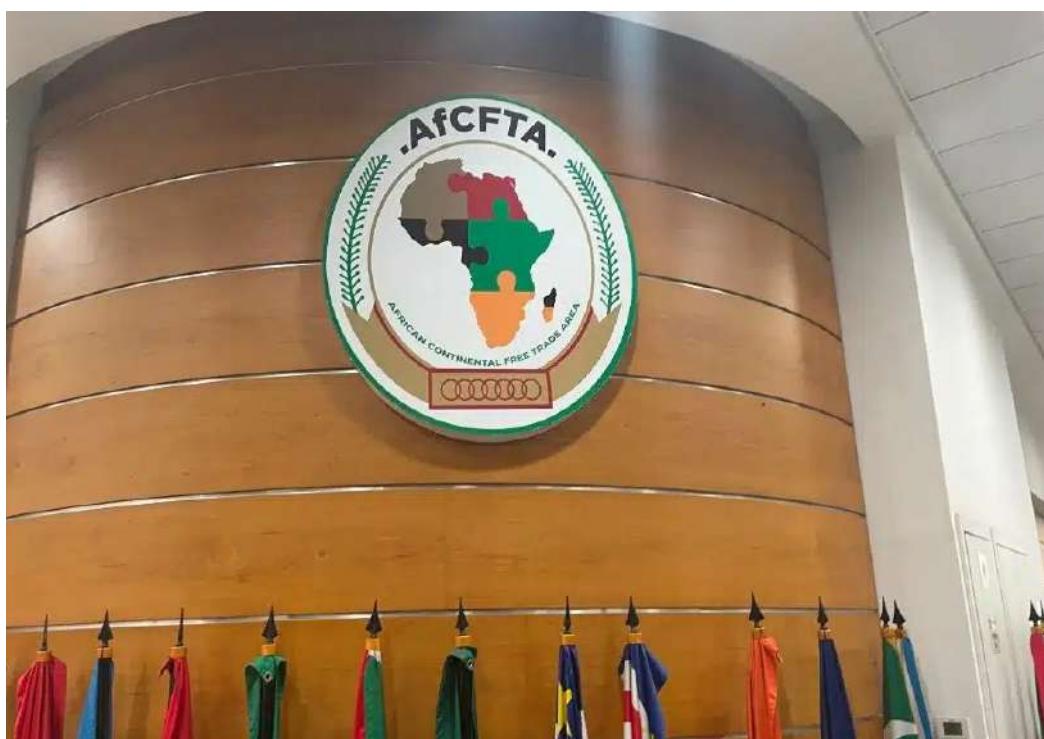
SWIFT, founded in 1973 as a cooperative of 239 banks from 15 countries, is headquartered outside Brussels under Belgian law. It provides secure messaging services that instruct banks to debit and credit customer accounts in dollars and other currencies. By 2022, the dollar accounted for 41.8 percent of payment instructions transmitted via SWIFT, followed by the euro (34.7 percent), the British pound (6.3 percent), the Japanese yen (3.1 percent), and the Chinese renminbi (2.1 percent). Each bank is identified globally by a SWIFT code, also known as a BIC code, which is an 8–11 character alphanumeric identifier.

The BIS, established in 1930, serves as the “bank for central banks.” Owned by member central banks in 63 nations, it fosters financial stability and cooperation. Voting rights are based on share ownership, and the BIS plays a central role in balancing accounts between national central banks.

The dominance of SWIFT and BIS was challenged after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, when the United States imposed a financial embargo on Russia using these systems. In response, China, Russia, and other BRICS nations developed alternatives: BRICS PAY and the Cross-border Interbank Payment System (CIPS).

BRICS PAY is a decentralized digital platform designed to facilitate trade in local currencies. Using blockchain and QR code technologies, it enables secure, low-cost cross-border settlements and greater financial sovereignty. Its Decentralised Cross-border Messaging System (DCMS) allows participants to run their own nodes, reducing reliance on Western-controlled systems like SWIFT. Today, 185 nations use BRICS PAY.

CIPS, launched in 2015 by the People’s Bank of China, provides clearing and settlement services for cross-border renminbi (RMB) payments. It now covers more than 4,900 banking institutions in 189 countries and regions, advancing China’s policy of internationalising its currency.



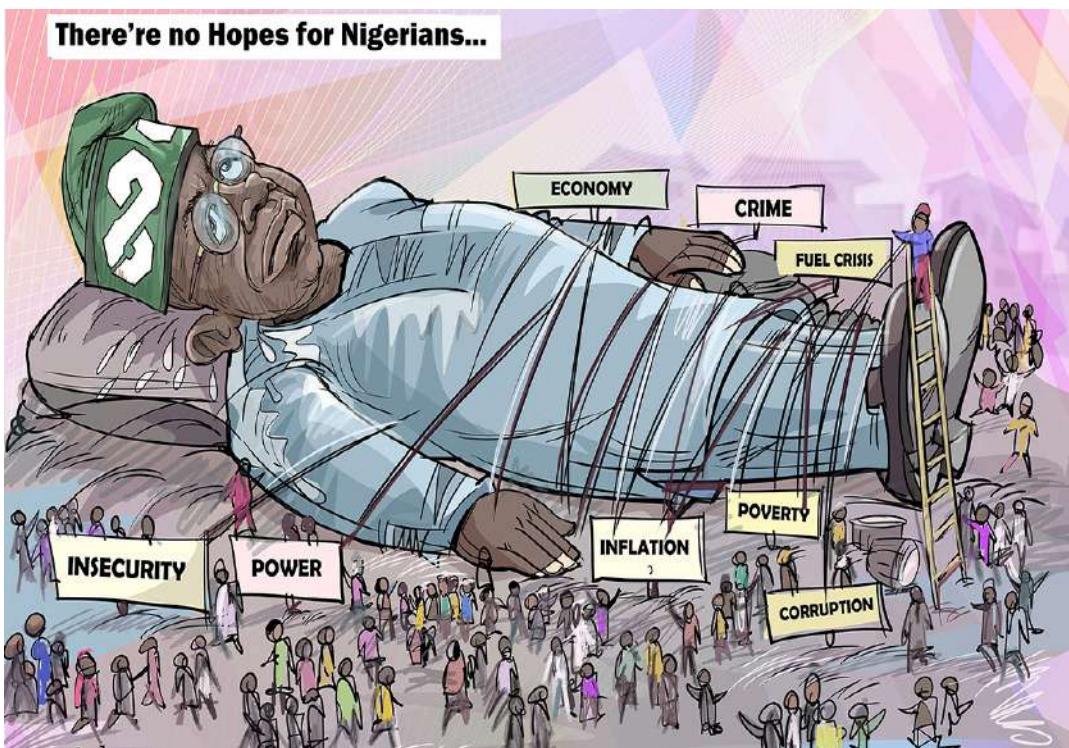
Africa has also developed its own system. The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), set up by Afreximbank, enables secure cross-border payments among African nations. PAPSS supports the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the world’s largest free trade area, which brings together 55 countries of the African Union and eight regional economic communities. Its aim is to create a single continental market and strengthen Africa’s trading position globally.

In the future, African capitalist nations hope PAPSS will manage intra-African capital flows, while BRICS PAY and CIPS handle transactions beyond the continent.

For a future socialist Africa, these financial systems and institutions will remain a reality. It is therefore imperative that the working class and its organs of struggle understand them. Only with such knowledge can workers confront the structures of global finance and prepare for the transformation of society in their interests.

STRANDED IN THE HANDS OF PRINCIPALITIES

– By Abadom Lawrence Amechi



Our challenge runs deeper than opposition ambition, external interference from Donald Trump and other foreign powers, or criticism from citizens. It transcends multi-ethnic divisions fuelled by perceived inequity. The real challenge lies in the inability of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to address the systemic issues that hinder good governance, accountability, and inclusive development.

The Tinubu administration's reliance on

propaganda and rhetoric won't change the fact that it has failed to address the numerous challenges it inherited. Instead, these tactics expose the administration's weaknesses and lack of capacity. As the saying goes, "a bad worker blames their tools." The problem lies not with external forces, but in internal ineffectiveness.

The APC's reliance on propaganda is a repeat of the tactics used to gloss over the underwhelming performance during Buhari's administration. With Tinubu's political machinery backing Buhari's government, we regressed significantly. If African elections were based on performance, APC would not have retained power. The Obidient movement emerged from a desire for genuine change, not the superficial kind witnessed in 2015.

Today, the relevance of ministers, party executives, personal aides, and government officials hinges on their ability to effectively promote the administration's propaganda projects. The administration's greatest achievement lies in rhetorics, not development. A leader who cannot drive progress becomes not just ineffective, but an obstacle to a fairer society.

The government has devolved into a cartel, with tribalism overshadowing nationalism. The erstwhile progressive voices who championed restructuring have fallen eerily silent, their promises forgotten. Advocacy has been reduced to empty words. The current administration's playbook for deflecting challenges involves scapegoating Obidients, Igbos, Trump, the labour movement, opposition parties and Peter Obi. Governance has been thoroughly politicised. We are paying the price. Most alarming is the ruling class's complicity and the silence of tribal cohorts, who protect their interests rather than hold government accountable.

Nigeria is a great country with immense growth potential. Its rich cultural diversity demands visionary leadership, not amateurish politicking. Yet since independence in 1960, we have lacked truly good and visionary leaders. Instead, the presidency has been used to sanitise past failures and advance personal interests. If this continues, the future looks bleak.

We are stranded in the hands of principalities. The path ahead seems futile, and looking back is disheartening. Yet the choice remains ours: to continue under oligarchic rule, or to fight for genuine democracy rooted in justice, equality and the power of the people. Breaking free from this cycle of dysfunction requires courage, solidarity, and a refusal to accept propaganda in place of progress.

BEFORE COLONIALISM: HOW ISLAM BUILT AFRICA'S EARLIEST EDUCATION SYSTEMS AND WHAT WAS LOST WITH COLONIALISM

By Baba Lawan



Long before colonial rule reshaped Africa's political and educational landscape, indigenous civilizations had already laid strong intellectual foundations across the continent. In Nigeria, as in much of Africa, education and writing did not begin with European contact; they were firmly rooted centuries earlier. Understanding what existed before colonial intervention—and what was subsequently lost—is essential to appreciating current educational challenges and imagining sustainable solutions.

Some of the world's earliest and most enduring educational institutions were founded in Africa. Al-Qarawiyyin University in Morocco, founded in 870 A.D., and Al-Azhar University in Egypt, established in 950 A.D., stand as enduring evidence of Africa's pre-colonial academic heritage. These institutions taught logic, astronomy, chemistry, geography and medicine, alongside Qur'anic studies, demonstrating the breadth of intellectual traditions that flourished long before European colonization.

Nigeria was connected to this global learning network through trade routes linking Kano across the Sahara to the Mediterranean coast. Islam reached the Kanem-Borno Empire as early as the 11th century. Scholars, judges, and administrators were trained to sup-

port a written administration using the Arabic script. Education was community-based, morally grounded, and socially relevant. Students were taught literacy, jurisprudence, ethics, governance, and history, producing leaders capable of administering justice and managing state affairs.

This tradition expanded after the establishment of the Sokoto empire in 1804. Under the leadership of Uthman Dan Fodio, education became a cornerstone of social reform. His daughter Nana Asma'u championed female education, ensuring that learning was accessible to ordinary people, not just elites. Schools multiplied across the caliphate, embedding education deeply into society.

Colonial conquest disrupted this indigenous system. British colonial authorities dismantled traditional institutions and imposed an alien education model designed primarily to serve the colonial administration. Although, initially at least, the administration and courts relied on local clerks writing Hausa using the Arabic script – Ajami. Islamic schools were excluded from state funding and official recognition. This gradually weakened the Islamic education system. Without public backing, many scholars were forced to operate from their homes or mosque entrances.

The loss was not merely institutional but philosophical. Colonial education emphasized clerical skills for colonial service, while marginalizing moral, communal, and indigenous intellectual traditions. As Frantz Fanon observed, colonialism does not only occupy land but also seeks to dominate the mind by displacing native knowledge systems. In Northern Nigeria, this displacement fractured a centuries-old educational culture that had once integrated faith, ethics, and practical knowledge.

Modern intellectuals increasingly recognize this historical rupture. Scholars of education argue that the failure to integrate Islamic schools into Nigeria's national framework after independence perpetuated educational exclusion. Many children categorized today as "out-of-school" are, in reality, enrolled in traditional learning systems that remain officially unrecognized. This disconnect reflects not a rejection of education, but a policy failure to harmonize indigenous and modern systems.

Reclaiming what was lost does not mean rejecting modern education. Rather, it requires acknowledging that pre-colonial education once produced scholars, scientists, judges, and administrators long before colonial intervention. Reviving this legacy through modernization and integration aligns with both contemporary development goals and Islamic principles.

THERE ARE NO HEROES – IT IS UP TO US TO END POVERTY AND INEQUALITY



From Morocco via Tanzania and Kenya to Madagascar, we have recently seen mass protests against the rising inequality across Africa - very similar to those across the world that sparked protests in Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, etc (with millions protesting against Trump in the US). We have to rely on such protests built on a core of organised working class strikes to end the widespread inequality, poverty and resulting insecurity.

A recent Oxfam report on the fantastic increase in inequality across Africa concluded that:

“Africa faces a double crisis of inequality. Not only are the continent and its countries among the world’s most unequal, but its governments are on average among the least committed to reducing inequality.

This has created a situation in which a few people are becoming rich beyond their wildest dreams, while the majority endure increasing hardship:

- Africa’s four richest people – all of whom are men – have more wealth than half of the region’s 1.55 billion people combined.
- Since 2020, the average income of the richest 1% in Africa has increased five times faster than that of the bottom 50%.
- African dollar millionaires, who account for 0.02% of the population, own nearly a fifth of the region’s wealth, while the bottom 50% own less than 1%.”

The best way to address this appalling poverty amidst obscene wealth is for our collective actions to force governments to adopt the following two measures:

- Introduce a decent minimum wage with annual increases linked to inflation.
- Exceed the international norms for public spending on education and health and other essential services.

Unfortunately none of Africa’s 54 governments are taking any real steps towards addressing inequality and poverty levels are now increasing. South Africa is even more unequal now than it was under Apartheid. The military junta’s of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have done nothing concrete to address the deep poverty suffered by so many in their countries. Even the elected government of Senegal, seen by many as progressive, has not addressed the minimum wage or spending on health and education.

In Senegal a new government came to power in April 2024. The minimum wage although N160,000 has not been increased since 1996. The health budget remains at half the norm of 15% in the Abuja Declaration. The education budget for 2025 has seen a modest increase to 25% of total spending from 23% in 2023.

It is mass action by the organised working class that can make a difference. If the JOHESU strike is successful this will begin to increase the funding of public health. ASUU strikes are beginning to force the Federal Government to increase funding for public universities. Action from the Nigeria Labour Congress can will another increase in the minimum wage this year.

Recent Oxfam report on growing global inequality (January 2026):

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/resisting-rule-rich>

The full Oxfam report is available to read from:

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/africas-inequality-crisis-and-rise-super-rich>

The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/sj44netu>

HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO BE ACTIVE IN POLITICS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS?

We need more women to be active in their trade unions and political organisations, like Socialist Labour.

Why is it that women are so under-represented in the trade unions, especially the leadership? Why do so few women express an interest in Socialist Labour and attend our meetings?

What are the key issues that we can encourage women to campaign around? How do we need to reform the trade unions to ensure that women are better represented in the leadership and play a more active role?



Women are playing an active role in the mass protests in Iran and previously in Sudan. What changed to ensure that this happened?

There are two Nigerian women's WhatsApp groups with around 100 women in each. These are "Women for Development Politics"

- <https://tinyurl.com/4mtuzdrb> and "Camp4Wom&ReprodRights" - <https://tinyurl.com/msd673hk>

We need to make these groups more informative and educational. E.g. periodic online seminars on key women issues or dissecting current local or global issues from a women's lens.

Increasing women's active participation in trade unions requires a comprehensive and structural approach that addresses both the "time poverty" many women face due to care responsibilities and the historically masculine culture of unions. Key strategies include implementing quotas for leadership roles, focusing on issues relevant to women, providing flexible meeting options, and offering targeted mentoring and training.

Here are the primary ways to get more women active in trade unions:

1. Structure and Policy Changes

- **Implement Quotas and Statutory Rules:** Introduce rules that guarantee female representation on committees and in leadership roles.
- **Establish Women's Networks/Committees:** Create dedicated spaces (like Women's Committees or Networks) that offer supportive environments for women to discuss issues, build confidence and develop leadership skills.
- **Gender-Proof Union Activities:** Regularly review all union documents, policies, and actions to ensure they are not gender-biased. Use gender sensitive language, like Chair rather than Chairman.

2. Tailoring Union Agendas to Women

- **Focus on 'Women's Issues':** Prioritise issues that matter to women, such as closing the gender pay gap, improving maternity rights, establishing flexible working arrangements, and fighting workplace harassment.
- **Expand Organising in Female-Dominated Sectors:** Target recruitment efforts toward industries with high concentrations of women, such as healthcare and education.
- **Address the Informal Sector:** Actively fight for unionisation of the informal sector. Allow outsourced workers like cleaners and security staff to join the institution's main trade unions.

3. Creating Inclusive Environments

- **Flexible Meeting Times and Childcare:** Overcome "time poverty" by scheduling meetings within working hours, providing childcare to make participation easier for those with caring responsibilities.
- **Engage Men in Gender Equality:** Encourage men to actively support gender balance and act as allies to challenge sexist behaviours within the workplace and union.
- **Mentorship and Training:** Provide tailored leadership training and mentoring programs that help women gain the skills and confidence to take on roles like shop stewards, union reps and branch officer positions.

By implementing these changes, unions can transform into more inclusive, "gender-just" organizations that better represent the modern workforce.

HOW TO BE A MARXIST: SOCIAL MOBILISATION FOR RADICAL TRANSFORMATION IN BURKINA FASO



Bettina Engels (2018) – available for free download from: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48540844>

I aim to answer the question of what it means to be a Marxist activist in Burkina Faso today. In particular, I discuss whether, from the perspective of the activists involved, the recent popular insurrection in Burkina Faso can be claimed to be a 'revolution'. I argue that the idea of the unity of the popular classes, building upon the assumption that organised labour and other exploited social groups are not distinct from one another.

With the history of Burkina Faso since independence as an example, Bettina describes the three methods that governments can change; elections, military coups and popular uprisings. For Socialist Labour it is the latter that are important as, in the right conditions, these can lead to at least the possibility of a transition to socialism.

In Burkina Faso the clearest example was the popular insurrection of 30–31 October 2014. This overthrew the murderer of Thomas Sankara after 30 years. Unfortunately, this process was ended with a military coup – history shows that elections can also play this role.

Many other African countries have a history of such popular uprisings. The most recent being that in Madagascar in September 2015. A brief summary can be found on our website:

<https://tinyurl.com/ms668t78>

Another example is the Sudanese uprising of 2019. This again got rid of a long-term dictator, before being derailed by a military coup and then civil war. Before this defeat, resistance committees had played an important role as a potential base for a socialist working class state. Some of the lessons of this experience are available from:

<https://tinyurl.com/3j6y85ms>

#jointheresistance

For Bettina, the lesson is “be prepared!” As she explains:

“For sure, a regime’s end does not come out of the blue but builds upon years or decades of opposition and mobilisation. But the point in time is hardly predictable, and it might be quite sudden. In order not to risk losing the fruits of years-long activism to the military and other reactionary forces but rather drive them into long-term, durable and structural transformation of the institutions of democratic participation, of citizenship, and of the political economy, a political vision and programme is needed.”

VENEZUELA IN CRISIS: SOCIALIST PERSPECTIVES – BOOK REVIEW



Donald Trump’s attack on Venezuela’s capital city and kidnap of the country’s president is a world-historic shock which we are all still processing. The sheer and open illegality of the action would be alarming on its own, but the bizarre and unprecedented outcome of the incursion is also leaving people’s heads spinning. America has deposed a leader that they have been denouncing as a crazed communist dictator for well over a decade, only to leave his government and state structure basically intact. This has confused America’s allies and opponents more or less equally.

A new collection of essays about Venezuela provides a timely corrective to discussion about the country. A review of this book is available from this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/8h87hp25>

Summary of Workers Strikes - January 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>

The **coalition of health workers, JOHESU**, started an indefinite strike in Federal hospitals on 14th November. The demands include: COHESS adjustment, promotion arrears, COVID-19 balance, release of professional allowances table. The strike has stopped health care in all the Federal Medical Centres and the National Hospitals. The strike has stopped work in laboratories, medical records, administration, account departments, mortuaries, pharmacies and others. The NLC and TUC have promised to organise a general strike after the first week in February if JOHESU's demands are not met.

Nurses at the National Ear Care Centre, Kaduna started an indefinite strike from 19th December. The first ever strike at the institution. The strike was over incorrect grading of nurses, specifically expunging the post of Principal Nursing Officer and the appointment of seven locum nurses. The strike was suspended from the 19th January as management agreed with its demands.

The **Joint Unions of Nasarawa State Tertiary Institutions (JUNSTI)** started an indefinite strike on 24th December. This is over the implementation of the minimum wage. This was not paid in the November salary despite being delayed for two weeks for this purpose. JUNSTI consists of the following trade unions - ASUP, ASUCOAST, COEASU, SSANIP, SSUCOEN and NASU. They previously took strike action for a week over the same issue in February 2025. The strike was suspended from 22nd January as the Governor released funds for the implementation of the minimum wage.

Six higher institutions owned by the Katsina State Government embarked on a two-week warning strike on 12th January over unmet demands. The Joint Consultative Forum (JCF) of Katsina State Tertiary Institutions is an umbrella body for staff unions (like ASUU, NASU, etc.) in state-owned colleges and polytechnics. The strike is over non-implementation of 35 per cent and 25 per cent salary increments, an unsympathetic increase in students' registration fees and other issues. The institutions involved are Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina; Isa Kaita College of Education, Dutsinma; Yusuf Bala Usman College of Education and Legal Studies, Daura; College of Nursing Sciences, Katsina (Katsina and Malumfashi campuses); College of Health Science and Technology (Daura and Kankia campuses); and Katsina State Institute of Technology and Management, Katsina.

The **Joint Union Action Congress of the FCTA** called an indefinite strike from 19th January. The strike is over the authorities' failure to address long-standing labour and welfare issues including non-payment of five-month wage awards and 14 other demands. The strike is disrupting activities across all the FCTA Secretariat, departments, agencies, area councils and parastatals within the FCT. Since Wike came to power there have been no meetings between the trade unions and management. The NUT joined the strike from 26th January and closed all the public schools across Abuja.

The **Senior Staff Association of Electricity and Allied Companies (SSAEAC) and the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) at the Kano Electricity Distribution Company** commenced an indefinite strike over poor working conditions on 21st January. Following the commencement of the strike, Kano city and its environs were thrown into darkness. The strike was suspended three days later after the company paid arrears of 13th-month salary (bonus) and appraisal bonuses dating back to 2019 and 2022.

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.