


PART VI
**THE MEETING OF THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE ON THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN CRISIS HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2001 AT
THE NUC AUDITORIUM, ABUJA**

COMMUNIQUE

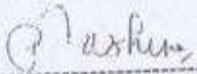
On Tuesday 4th December, 2001, a joint meeting of the Reconciliation Committee, the ASUU/FGN 2001 Agreement Implementation Committee and the disengaged forty four (44) Academic Staff of University of Ilorin was held at the NUC Secretariat Abuja.

The meeting reviewed the University of Ilorin crisis and:


- 1) noted the desire of the Governing Council of the University of Ilorin to give favourable consideration to the reabsorption of the affected staff;
- 2) noted the desire of Council for the affected members of staff to apply for reabsorption;
- 3) considered the reports of the affected members of staff on the damage done to the group individually and collectively by the Management of the University by way of intimidation, harassment and character assassination;
- 4) considered the report of the University Management, on the actions of the affected staff which had brought bad publicity to the University;
- 5) recognised the contributions made by the affected staff to the development of the University from inception to date; and their willingness to continue to do so.
- 6) commended the contributions of the following to the reconciliation initiative: the National Universities Commission; the National Executive Council of ASUU; the Federal Government/ASUU 2001 Agreement Implementation Committee; the Permanent Secretary, Political Affairs, the Presidency; the Reconciliation Committee as well as the Management and Council of the University of Ilorin;
- 7) agreed that the request of Council for an appeal for reabsorption be made by way of a letter jointly signed by the forty four (44) affected staff;
- 8) noted the agreement by the affected forty four members of staff and others, to withdraw all litigation in respect of the cessation of their appointments;
- 9) Finally, appealed to Council to also consider reabsorbing members of the Executive of University of Ilorin Branch of ASUU and others who had earlier been disengaged.



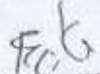
Alhaji Babs A. Animashaun
Chairman, Reconciliation Committee



Dr. Dipo Fashina
National President, ASUU



Prof. Peter Okebukola
Executive Secretary, NUC



Dr. O. F. Omojola
for all Affected Staff

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

(FGN/ASUU AGREEMENT 2001)

HEAD OFFICE
National Universities Commission
Secretariat
Abuja.

Tel: (09) 4131181
Telefax: (09) 4131520

May 17, 2001

Our Ref:..... *Your Ref:*.....

Date:.....

Honourable Minister of Education
Office of the Honourable Minister
Federal Ministry of Education
Federal Secretariat
Shehu Shagari Way
Abuja

Throu:

The Executive Secretary
National Universities Commission
Maitama District
Abuja.

Dear Hon. Minister,

REPORT OF THE FGN/ASUU AGREEMENT 2001 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON THE DISENGAGED STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN

Please find attached herewith report of the FGN/ASUU Agreement 2001 Implementation Committee on the disengaged Staff of the University of Ilorin for your information and necessary action.

- The full report of the Implementation Committee since inception will be forwarded to you in due course.

Thank you.



Prof. Ayo Banjo
Chairman



The Honourable Minister
Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja

- * Category A 44 academic staff sacked with letter showing that their appointments were terminated for their refusal to sign back from the National strike (the list is contained in appendix A attached)
- * Category B 5 union officials sacked on May 15 during the National strike
- * Category C academic staff sacked on February 21 2001;
- * Category D one academic staff sacked on July 18, 2001;
- * Category E two academic staff members of the Unions Co-ordinating Committee suspended.

The bone of contention is the defective clause in the letter of termination of the 44 staff under category A, part of which reads:

"Following the Council's directive that you should sign the appropriate register and return to work by Tuesday, 22nd May 2001, you have still not complied with the Council's directive to the effect that you sign-in and thereafter return to duty"

4. While all those who refused to sign back from the National strike in the case of the University of Ilorin became peculiar. It is for this reason that we have no choice but to endorse the recommendation of the Implementation



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Federal Secretariat, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja
OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER

Tel: 09-5232800
Fax: 09-5237839

REF. NO. DE/HE/33/237

14TH SEPTEMBER, 2001

CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Your Excellency

FGN/ASUU 2001 AGREEMENT: AN UPDATE ON THE CASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN

Mr. President is fully aware that ASUU has issued a fresh notice to embark on another strike action within three weeks if Government fails to implement the FGN/ASUU Agreement 2001. The case of dismissed staff from University of Ilorin continues to be a major issue. Before this latest notice, I have earlier invited both the Pro-Chancellor and Vice Chancellor who assured me that the exercise in the University had nothing to do with the ASUU strike.

2. However, this matter was referred to the FGN/ASUU Agreement Implementation Committee constituted by me. The Committee was made of two Pro Chancellors, National President of ASUU, Executive Secretary, NUC and representative of Federal Ministry of Education. The Committee met on Thursday September 6th, 2001 and came up with the following facts:-

C. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE:

- 44 Academic staff of University of Ilorin were disengaged from the services of the University of Ilorin on May 22, 2001 during the national strike of ASUU.
- Their letters of termination unequivocally indicated that they were sacked because they remained on the national strike.
- The only strike that was on at this time was the national strike of ASUU. An earlier local strike had been called off on April 3, 2001. The University Administration acknowledged the suspension of the local strike (Attachment VII). Thus no staff was on local strike by May 22, 2001.
- Although the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin alleged other acts of indiscipline against the sacked staff, no evidence of these acts or of the staff having been taken through due disciplinary process was presented before this Committee.

D. RECOMMENDATION:

The Crisis at the University of Ilorin remains a sore point, a potential source of destabilization, in the University System. The President as the Visitor to the University of Ilorin should intervene to resolve this lingering problem as the University of Ilorin law provides.

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

(FGN/ASUU AGREEMENT 2001)

HEAD OFFICE
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Secretariat
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Tel: (09) 4131181
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Honourable Minister of Education
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Thank you.



Prof. Ayo Banjo
Chairman

complied while those of the University of Ilorin did not. This matter was referred to the Implementation Committee.

B. ACTIVITIES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE:

- The Committee met in an emergency session on September 6, 2001 to consider the University of Ilorin crisis and other matters of implementation of the agreement with ASUU. The Committee studied the documents submitted to the Chairman of the Committee by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin as well as other papers made available to the Committee. The Committee categorized the sacked staff on the basis of available information and came to the conclusion that 44 of them were sacked expressly on account of the national strike; and that 5 others, who are Union leaders, were sacked during the national strike, specifically on May 15, 2001. The Committee wrote to the University of Ilorin to reverse its action on the 44 while discussion would be held in respect of the other categories of staff (*Attachment II, letter of Implementation Committee of September 6, 2001 to Pro-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin*)
- The Pro-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin protested against the decision of the Implementation Committee (see Attachment III). Following this, the Implementation Committee invited and took evidence from University of Ilorin authorities represented by the Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Committee of ASUU, at the University of Ilorin, on September 24, 2001. After this interaction, the Committee could only reiterate its position of September 6 (*Attachment IV, minutes of meeting of September 24, 2001*).

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

AND

THE ACADEMIC STAFF UNION OF UNIVERSITIES

30th JUNE, 2001

Vol. 1

years old.

It was agreed that these cases shall be referred to the Governing Council of each University with a view to reverting to an arrangement that will allow the staff involved to benefit from the abrogation of the 35-year requirement and the 65-year rule.

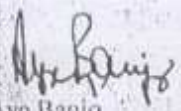
7.9.3 Machinery for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Agreement

It was agreed that a machinery, with representation of Government and ASUU, shall be set up to monitor the implementation of this Agreement. The Implementation and Monitoring Committee shall consist of:

- 3 members representing the Committee of Pro-Chancellors (CPC), one of whom shall be the Chairman of CPC, and one of whom shall be the Pro-Chancellor of a State University. The Chairman of CPC shall be the Chairman of the Committee.
- 2 members representing the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU), one of whom shall be the Vice-Chancellor of a State University
- 1 member representing the NUC, as Secretary
- 1 member representing the Federal Ministry of Education
- 3 members representing ASUU.
- Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Education or their Representatives.

IT WAS AGREED THAT NOBODY SHALL BE VICTIMISED IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER FOR HIS/HER ROLE IN THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION LEADING TO THIS AGREEMENT.

signed this 30th day of June, 2001.


Ayo Banjo
Pro-Chancellor,
University of Port Harcourt
on behalf of Federal Government


Dr. Dipo Fashina
National President ASUU
on behalf of Academic Staff
Union of Nigerian Universities



UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA

Registrar: M. TUNDE BALOGUN B. Sc. (Hons), (ABU, Zaria), H.P.A.P. (Manchester)

ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION



P. M. B. 1515

Cables & Telegrams: UNILORIN

Telex: 33144 UNILORIN NG

Telephone: ILORIN 221937, 221691

Our ref: UI/SSE/PF/513

2nd May, 2001

Your ref: :

Professor B. J. Olufeagba,
Dept. of Electrical Engineering,
University of Ilorin,
Ilorin.

Dear Professor Olufeagba,

CESSATION OF APPOINTMENT

I refer to our letter Ref. No. UI/SSE/PF/513 of 16th May, 2001.

Following Council's directive that you should sign the appropriate register and return to work by Tuesday, 22nd May, 2001, it has been observed that as at Tuesday, 22nd May, 2001 you have still not complied with Council's directives to the effect that you sign-in and thereafter return to duty.

In the light of the above, I am to inform you that the University does not require your services any longer.

Sequel to the foregoing, you will be paid six months salaries in lieu of notice in tune with Section 2.19.9 of the Regulations Governing the Conditions of Service.

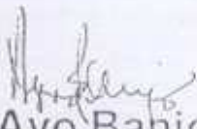
You will please, ensure that you settle immediately any indebtedness against you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.T. Balogun'.

M.T. BALOGUN
Registrar & Secretary to Council

We recommend that the 44 Staff should be recalled in accordance with the findings of this Committee. In addition, the Implementation Committee endorses the recommendation of the *Reconciliation Committee* that 5 members of the Executive Committee of ASUU of the University of Ilorin be treated in a similar way.


Prof. Ayo Banjo
Chairman

@ May 27, 2002

ANNEX 2

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Appendix

Appendix II d

Direct Line: 8107423

FLAT 2,
MELLANBY HALL,
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
P.O. BOX 9021
IBADAN.



AI

To: Ref:

Ref:

Date: 20

April 01, 2001

The Vice-Chancellor,
University of Iorin,

Dear Sir/Madam,

COMMENCEMENT OF ASUU NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON MONDAY 2, 2001.

On December 18, 2001, the Federal Government and ASUU Negotiating Teams concluded a four-month negotiation process and reached an Agreement, which was expected to have been subsequently signed by January 2001.

The Agreement covered far-reaching issues, among which are Funding, Autonomy and Salaries and Condition of Service. The matters addressed in the agreement were aimed at stopping and reversing the issues of brain drain; and the rehabilitation of the Nigerian Universities.

ASUU has, since the Agreement, made strenuous and numerous attempts to get the Government to sign the Agreement to no avail.

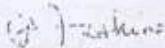
On the advice of a referendum conducted in ASUU Branches and after painstaking deliberations, the National Executive Council (NEC) of ASUU, decided to embark on a National Strike until the Federal Government signs and commences implementation of the Agreement. A total and indefinite strike means, among other things: no attendance and holding of Senate, Departmental, Committee, and other statutory and institutional meetings, including that of Governing Council by ASUU members. There shall also be no full-time and part-time teaching, including sandwich and "satellite" campuses programmes; no examinations and attendance of Conferences.

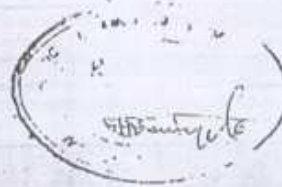
The purpose of writing you this letter is to solicit your understanding and co-operation. ASUU is aware that virtually every Vice-Chancellor has been battling on his Campus with the problems of funding and other issues dealt with in the Agreement. We wish to draw your attention to the fact that some Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Chancellors participated actively in the negotiations of the said Agreement on the side of Government. The University System will be better off if the Agreement is signed and duly implemented. It is to be noted that there is adequate provision in the Agreement for the resuscitation of our Universities.

It will be highly appreciated if you as Vice-Chancellors will co-operate with ASUU in this patriotic and legitimate undertaking

Thanks,

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Dipo Fasina
National President, ASUU.



ATTACH VII

UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA

Registrar: M. T. BALOGUN, B.Sc. (Hons), PhD (Zoo), FRC (Lancaster)

PMB 1515
Cables & Telegrams: UNILORIN
Telex: 33144 UNILORIN IG
Telephones: ILORIN 221937, 221992-4

HEAD'S OFFICE

UI/RU/A.22



4th April, 2001

The Chairman,
Academic Staff Union of Universities,
University of Ilorin Chapter,
University of Ilorin,
Ilorin.

Dear Sir,

RE - SUSPENSION OF LOCAL INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Administration is delighted to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 3rd April, 2001 concerning the suspension of the ASUU's local industrial action. Administration wishes to congratulate the ASUU (Unilorin) Executive Committee for acting on wise counsel in suspending this strike action.

However, the administration would like to call the attention of the ASUU Executive to the Honourable Minister of Education's information to the effect that the issue of ASUU's national strike action has been put before the National Industrial Arbitration Panel which is already looking into this matter, and that any matter before such Panel should await a final resolution or pronouncement by the Panel before your Executive Committee takes any action.

Secondly, I wish to draw attention to the fact that our students have already lost up to six weeks of academic work since ASUU embarked on its local strike action, and that the interest of the generality of our students and their sponsors should now be uppermost in the minds of all lecturers.

To this effect, I wish to inform you that the University of Ilorin cannot afford to join any national strike action at this point in time.

In the light of the foregoing, lecturers are implored to consider the plight and the interest of our students who are eager to resume their academic work and desist from strike action. Unless those staff members who have not yet done so, sign the register as an indication of their resumption of work, the "no work, no pay" rule should continue to apply.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

M. T. BALOGUN
Registrar

- cc: Vice-Chancellor
- Deputy Vice-Chancellors
- Bursar
- Deputy Registrar (Academic)
- Deputy Registrar (Estabs.)

P.S. I attach herewith the Guardian Newspaper cutting on the issue of the Federal Government's appeal to the Industrial Arbitration Panel on the ASUU's notice of industrial action for your information please.