

NASU begins nationwide strike

From Isa Sa'idu, Kaduna; Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka; Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta; Adewale Giwa, Akure & Kabiru Matazu Hamisu, Yobe

THE Non-Academic Staff of Universities (NASU) Wednesday embarked on one-week warning strike over the non-implementation of the agreement reached with the Federal Government in 2009.

The strike, which also involves the Senior Staff Assignment of Nigeria University (SSANU) and the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), has grounded activities in most of the universities across the country.

In the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, the non-teaching staff deserted their offices in the departments, faculties, centres and Senate building. Lecture rooms, theatres and laboratories were all closed.

Speaking with our correspondent, the chairman of SSANU, ABU chapter, Mallam Alfa Gimba, said the one-week warning strike in ABU was enjoying the support of SSANU, NAAT and NASU.

"The federal government has refused to respect some aspects of agreement we reached with them in 2009. This includes inadequate funding of universities, 65 years retirement age and other serious

clauses of the agreement. This was why the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the three unions declared the 7-day warning strike. As you can see ABU is virtually shut down as almost everywhere is under lock and keys," Mallam Gimba said.

SSANU chairman, Anambra State University chapter Vin Asoewgu alleged that despite efforts of the Joint Action Committee of the three unions to discuss with authorities concerned, the government had not responded.

He urged government to address all contentious issues to avert an indefinite strike.

The chairman of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) of the Olabisi

Onabanjo University (OOU), Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, Comrade Ramon said all the non-academic bodies in the institution, which include the SSANU, the

NAAT and NASU with a total of about 600 members, had joined in the strike.

It was the same scenario at the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) as NASU members deserted their offices yesterday. Public Relations Officer of the institution Mr. Omololu Adegbenro who spoke with Daily Trust, said, "Though our students

are on break, the strike still affects activities of the institution, it is a national issue, it is not peculiar to our institution".

However, the situation was quite different at the Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko (AAUA) as the strike did not affect its academic activities. Public Relations Officer of the institution said, "The strike is on, and does not affect anything. Lectures are ongoing".

NASU members at Bukar Abba Ibrahim University (BAIU), Damaturu also joined the strike as confirmed by the institution's Vice chancellor, Professor Musa Alabe.

Jang presides over security council meeting

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang yesterday presided over the state security council meeting in line with the new security arrangement by the Federal Government.

The Federal Government last month directed the military, under the direct supervision of the Chief of Defence Staff, to take over security in the state to restore peace there.

The meeting which held at the

Governor's Lodge, Jishe, started in the morning and ended around 4 pm.

It had in attendance the heads of the security outfits in the state including the commander of the Special Task Force (STF) Major General Oluwaseun Olayinka Oshinowo who is the Chief of Defence Staff's point man in the state.

The state's Commissioner for Information, Yiljap Abraham, who briefed newsmen about the outcome of the meeting, said the meeting, presided over by the gov-

ernor, noted with delight the relative peace prevailing in the state.

The commissioner said the council also acknowledged the paradigm shift in the security situation in the state following the new arrangement under the STF and commended the people of the state for making it work.

He said the meeting also commended the renewed inter agency cooperation among the security agencies and noted that achieving peace requires sustenance of dialogue at all levels.

One killed in fresh Jos attack

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

GUNMEN attacked Tanjol village in Riyom Local Government of Plateau State Tuesday night and shot two persons.

One of the victims, rushed to the Vom Christian Hospital in Vom, however, died yesterday morning, while the other was said to be in a critical condition.

Nine persons have since been confirmed arrested in connection with the attack.

The attackers were said to have arrived the village around 7:30 pm on Tuesday and headed for the house of one Dachollom Bala where they shot the two victims.

Having been alerted, the security men in the area were said to have got to the scene on time and apprehended nine of the attackers while trying to flee.

The state's Commissioner for Information, Yiljap Abraham, who confirmed the incident, said those arrested had been handed over to the police for further investigation and possible prosecution.

According to him, the arrest has shown that with the present security arrangement in the state, a situation where people are attacked at random will no longer be tolerated as the government is doing everything to secure the lives of people.

Kadpoly rape scandal: Court discharges accused

