



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (TUTAG)

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

C/O KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KsTU)
P. O. BOX 854
KUMASI
ASHANTI REGION

Our Ref: TUTAG/PR/02
Your Ref:

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Press Statement

All Media Houses

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 44TH CONGRESS OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (TUTAG) AT BOLGATANGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

The members of the Technical University Teachers Association of Ghana (TUTAG) held their 44th Congress at the Bolgatanga Technical University from the 25th to 28th of October, 2022 on the theme "Resourcing Technical Universities for Sustainable Development".

At the end of the Congress, the following major resolutions were made:

1. TUTAG Support for the Stance of UTAG and Other Unions at Analogous Institutions

TUTAG strongly wishes to reiterate its earlier stance of declaring its unflinching support for the strike action initiated by the University Teachers' Association of Ghana (UTAG) and the other sister unions of the various universities. The issues that UTAG is pursuing are germane to the course of TUTAG. Government in 2021 unilaterally revised the duly negotiated Conditions of Service of university teachers. This clearly constitutes unfair labour practice and TUTAG wishes to urge government to stick to the existing duly-negotiated Conditions of Service by applying the current ex-pump price to the payment of the other two (2) items namely Vehicle Maintenance and Off-campus allowances. We want government to opt for paying these two allowances based on the current conditions prevailing in the economy to help promote industrial harmony on the various campuses.

If after the meeting with NLC on Wednesday, 2nd November 2022, the issues in contention are not resolved by government, TUTAG would be compelled to join the strike.

2. Undue Delay in the Release of the Conditions of Service Approval Letter from the Ministry of Finance

Members expressed their frustration about the long delay in the release of letters by the Finance Ministry to legitimize the new IGF-related Conditions of Service. Members were shocked that after almost a year since government itemized 30 IGF related conditions of service for local chapters to negotiate, the latter has refused to give approval to this

document. Members decided that we should wait for the National Labour Commission hearing which comes off in one week to advise ourselves should the letters delay any further in getting issued. TUTAG wishes to reiterate that the NLC should enforce its ruling without further delay.

3. Long History of Delays in the Payment of Book & Research Allowance

TUTAG vehemently registered its displeasure in the long delays that characterize the payment of the Book and Research Allowances year in and year out. Members recounted how the payment of these allowances have been delayed over the years by successive governments. It was established that these allowances are normally meant for usage in procuring resources to update one's notes for teaching within a particular academic year. Members realized that these allowances are always paid after the academic year has expired. The most unacceptable thing is that the allowance is paid very late in the year after which the cedi has long depreciated against the dollar; hence reducing the value of the currency for procuring research, teaching and learning materials for which it was intended. TUTAG rejects this arrangement and urges government to pay within the first half of the year.

4. Ghanaians Urged to Patronize Technical University Programmes

Current economic trends have redirected attention to technical and vocational education, as this promises to deal with graduate unemployment, and to help provide the needed human capital for production of goods and services. TUTAG wishes to encourage parents, guardians, and the general public to allow their wards choose innovative, TVET, and entrepreneurial programmes offered in Technical Universities to guarantee employment after school. These include Diploma, Bachelors, and Postgraduate programmes.

5. Government Cautioned on Tier-2 Pension Fund

TUTAG discussed at length the usage of the Tier-2 Pension Fund. It was reiterated that the welfare of every employee is such a sensitive issue that needs to be guarded with all tact and care. Upon the implementation of the 3-tier pension scheme, TUTAG as a union had to contend with government for years just to get them to transfer the Tier-2 funds to the appointed fund managers. Considering the current economic conditions in the country, TUTAG would like to issue a word of caution that government can explore other means of restoring the economy back on track but should desist from all attempts to meddle with the pension fund of members.

6. Government Urged to Support and Resource Technical Universities to Meet Global Needs and Trends for Development

The Congress of TUTAG also deliberated on the deplorable conditions of infrastructure and other needed resources on the various TU campuses. We acknowledge that the government is making effort to build and resource our laboratories, workshops, and other infrastructure to augment the already deplorable ones. TUTAG still believes that the support is not adequate

judging from the fact that TUs are young on the block and need more support to bring them up to standard to run effectively. We are also urging government to increase budgetary allocations to TUs because, running TVET and hands-on and other skills-oriented programmes are very expensive. Also, it is suggested that as a policy initiative, government should give incentives to companies and organizations that offer attachment or internship opportunities to students.

Thank you.



Prof. Collins Ameyaw
[National President]



Dr. Abubakari Zakari
[General Secretary]