



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ABUJA

OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: ASUU'S ALLEGATION OF BRIBE FOR SALARIES AT THE AGF'S OFFICE AND MASSIVE IPPIS FRAUD

The attention of the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation has been drawn to a news report in The Punch Newspaper of Wednesday, May 26, 2021 captioned, "ASUU alleges bribe-for-salaries in AGF office, massive IPPIS fraud". The report quoted ASUU President, Prof. Biodun Ogunyemi, as alleging that the IPPIS was fraught with corruption and that some officials in the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation were involved in what he called "bribe-for-salaries".

Ordinarily, the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation would not want to join issues with the ASUU President, Prof. Biodun Ogunyemi, but for the interest of discerning members of the public, it has become imperative to set the records right.

Presently, there are over 42,000 members of ASUU in federal universities. Out of this, 16,272 have been enrolled on the IPPIS platform, while 25,728 are yet to be enrolled. In April 2021, the Federal Government directed that the outstanding January to March 2021 salaries be paid to members of ASUU and the sum of N24.6 billion was paid to the 25,728 members of ASUU who are yet to be enrolled on the IPPIS platform. About 99.5% of ASUU members have so far been paid.

There are few cases of failed payments of sabbatical entitlements which is less than 0.05% in the payroll system and effort is on to clear them. The failed payments arose as a result of mismatch of account numbers with account names and absence of unique identifiers in the submissions by the respective universities.

In view of the allegation of bribery, it is expected that the ASUU President would have mentioned how much ASUU members gave as bribe and to whom the bribe was given to make possible the payment of their January to March 2021 salary arrears. In this technology-driven era, Prof. Biodun

Ogunyemi would have come up with concrete evidence to back up his allegation, instead of making cheap, sweeping blanket allegation seemingly to blackmail the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation and its staff.

It must be emphasized that it is unethical for any staff of the IPPIS Office to demand for bribe in the course of his/her official duties and such act has never been and will never be condoned. The Office of the Accountant General of the Federation challenges the ASUU President to name, with substantive proof, any staff of the IPPIS Office that collected the alleged bribe in discharging his/or her desk responsibility. Although the constitution guarantees freedom of expression, it is apt that this right should be exercised responsibly.

The IPPIS Office is focused on satisfying the expectations of Nigerian workers in line with the policy thrust of the Federal Government and will not be distracted in this determination. The IPPIS Office is currently undergoing transformation and business re-engineering including data cleansing, profiling staff, reviewing existing processes and aligning the processes with government policies and modern technology.

Prof. Ogunyemi took his blackmail too far by dragging in the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment (HMLE) who has worked hard to entrench industrial peace and harmony that is being experienced in the public service.

It is unfortunate that Prof. Ogunyemi has chosen to overheat the polity at a time the Federal Government has directed the payment of ASUU members' salaries. The Office of the Accountant General of the Federation advises discerning members of the public to discard and disregard the wild allegation and cheap blackmail of the ASUU President and support the lofty Federal Government policy.

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For: Accountant General of the Federation