



## Fix Tertiary Education.

1. On the 14 February 2022, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) embarked on a one-month nationwide warning strike and yesterday, 13 March 2022, the Union resolved to roll-over the strike for another eight (8) weeks which will once again see teaching and learning halted in all public universities in the country due to the failure of the government to fulfill its undertakings and implement the Memorandum of Action (MOA) it signed with the Union in December 2020 amongst other things.
2. Since this government has been in power, students have lost years of academic learning. You recall that in 2020, students in federal tertiary institutions in Nigeria lost over eight (8) months of academic learning due to ASUU's strike action and the pandemic – as schools were shut down and the government failed to provide the right infrastructure for technology enabled remote learning.
3. The actions and inactions of this government have consistently shown that education is not a priority.
4. The problems facing our education sector are not far-fetched. The sector is grossly underfunded, there is low investment in human capital and infrastructure within the Nigeria educational system and the current curriculum is not fit for purpose.
5. Over the past decade, the budget for education has not been encouraging. From 2016-2022 we have spent an average of less than 7% annually on education. In the 2022 budget only a meagre sum of N1 trillion was invested in education, amounting to 7% of the entire budget. These figures fall short of the UNESCO recommended minimum of 15-20% budgetary allocation for education.
6. This type of funding cannot make our educational system competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and there will not be growth in the educational sector without tallying capital injection for infrastructure or paying teachers' salaries and research to boost quality education. The effect is obvious, Nigerian teachers will constantly embark on strike action against the government thereby delaying the educational calendar to the detriment of the most important stakeholder; the students.
7. The government in the past have cited the low revenue generation as a reason for the lack of adequate funding, it is hard to rationalize this assertion when public funds are diverted to other expenses like the payment of subsidy, funding an over bloated civil service, and the increasing cost of governance etc. which are less of a priority and they continually crowd out investment in a critical sector like education.



8. Apart from the gross lack of funding, another issue that is equally important is that the current national curriculum at our various levels of academic institutions is simple not fit for purpose. It does not meet the demands of a technology-driven 21<sup>st</sup> century. Noting that in order to maximize and sustain economic growth, it is necessary to have a sound educational structure, which is intrinsically linked to the quality of our workforce. Every year young Nigerians enter our workforce without the adequate skills and opportunities.
9. It is pressing that the government address these issues immediately.

### **Points for Action**

The Youth Party recommend the Government adopt the following;

1. Immediately honour its obligations and implement the Memorandum of Action signed with ASUU.
2. Comply with the UNESCO budget benchmark for education through a supplementary budget by allocating over 15% of our budget on education.

In the mid-term the government should work towards the following;

3. Commercialisation of public universities, with grant provisions to students from indigent backgrounds, and scholarship for exceptional students.
4. Building a relationship between private sector and institutions of higher education, in order to facilitate necessary skill building, and employment which with include revamping the curriculum at various levels.
5. Bolster support for vocational institutions, such as colleges of agriculture, technical colleges.
6. Provide a bridge for mid-level employees, or students to cross into high-level employment.
7. Provide support for research departments of universities, and use said research to support government policies.