

## **PRESS BRIEFING ON GNAT'S POSITION ON CONTINUED POCKETS OF STRIKES BY SOME TEACHERS**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, we have invited you here this morning to express our sentiments about the continued pockets of strikes by some teachers in some parts of the country.

On Wednesday, September 14 2005 we held a press conference during which we asked our members to stand by as a result of the stalling of negotiations with our employer (i.e. the government) represented by the central management board (CMB). Following this announcement teacher showed their displeasure as well as support in various forms including organized demonstrations, letters and resolutions throughout the period.

Accordingly the leadership and the national secretariat of GNAT wish to make use of this opportunity to express their gratitude to the general membership of the association for the expressions of solidarity during the period referred to.

We want to state that the national leadership had never declared a strike action. But the leadership of the FORUM at the time expressed in unequivocal terms their displeasure at the shifting stance of the central management board representing government as employer.

In spite of all that, the FORUM firmly concluded negotiations with the central management board (CMB) on September 29, 2005 along the following lines

- ₦25 billion per month special allowance for employees in the forum for 4 months taking effect from September 2005 to December, 2005.
- Ten percent salary increase for levels 3 to 22 with effect from June 2005
- Payments to be effected by the controller & accountant- general's department by the end of October 2005
- Payment of salary arrears and the special allowance would spread over October to December 2005 in the following proportion 1:1:2. This means the adjusted salaries will be paid with one month's arrears for the months of October and November and two months arrears for December.

We wish to indicate further that it was obligatory for the FORUM to work expeditiously to submit proposals for salary levels and reimbursable allowance to be included in the 2006 national budget before the end of November 2005.

Accordingly we want to use the media to apprise those who are still on strike about the repercussions of their action.

1. As said earlier, we have reached an agreement with the employer and its recognized representatives;
2. The employer is not going to sit down with any separate group of people for any other negotiation;

3. The figures arrived at might not be the best to the membership just as they are not the leadership but looking at the time, we have to accept them and work towards improving the salaries for 2006.

We are reiterating our earlier assertion that we have not declared a strike action and therefore protests in any form should cease forthwith.

We are therefore calling on our colleagues who have laid down their tools to go back to work.

Thank you.

**IRENE DUNCAN-ADANUSA (MRS)**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

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