



# The Textile Worker

PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEXTILE, GARMENT AND TAILORING WORKERS OF NIGERIA

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## FORTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE

The textile factories were some of the most difficult places to organize workers as employers fought off the union, sacked labour leaders and got full time unionist arrested and often times charged to court. These battles which stretched from the early 60s became quite intense after the 1978 merger of all house unions in the

a new platform for deepening union organizing by engaging the many reluctant textile employers who were still resisting unionization. In spite of these tough obstacle, the unionization of the textile workers went on at a fast pace because conditions were terrible and workers could not imagine a worse fate than they were experiencing. The

zones with over 70,000 members. By November 1980, the number of branches had risen to 80 and fourteen zones with over 75,000 members. The strength of members impacted positively on the powers of the union to establish a regime of Industrial justice and improved conditions of service through collective bargaining. During this period the

achievements of the union in wage negotiations, defense of workers' rights, workers education and strong financial base were propelled by active membership and focused leadership. However the increasing liberalization of the economy since the structural adjustment years in the mid-eighties in line with the neo-liberal economic

economy have repeatedly weakened the structural power of the workers and the union has tried to build capacities to expand associational and societal power to regain strength and vibrancy through phases of challenge in the industry. The development in the economy has made the union to make strategic choices as it reorganizes internally to meet the needs of members in a troubled industry and remain relevant in the national labour movement. In particular, NUTGTWN's decision to expand the scope of its membership base beyond factory workers to include self-employed tailors is a milestone and an innovative challenge with potentially far-reaching consequences. In 2005, beyond the increased dedication of resources to

As the union intensifies its organizing campaign in both the factories and among the self-employed tailors and garment makers, it continue to advocate favorable industrial policy that will encourage competitive local production and a sense of patriotism in patronage of made in Nigeria fabrics and garments. This innovative organizing of self-employed tailors has swelled the ranks of the union with over 50,000 members with a potential far greater than half a million. The transformation of NUTGTWN is unique as the union remains strong and vibrant notwithstanding the monumental decline in membership from over sixty thousand in year 2000 to about 20,000 in 2016. But over all union membership has been tremendously lifted by



textile sector into big and vibrant National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria. The birth of a vibrant National Union provided

working hours in some textile companies stretched between ten and twelve hours with no break period. But as a result of intense organizing union membership grew rapidly rising well above 60000 making the textile union one of the biggest affiliate of the NLC in the 80s and 90s up to the early 2000, the golden age of the textile industry. When the union was inaugurated in 1977, it has 34 branches and 11

union expanded its infrastructure base with office building in Kaduna, Lagos and Asaba. The Kano office and Abuja property were added later to solidify the financial base of the union. The union exercised enormous structural powers based on a large factory based membership. The union intensified these powers in defending workers right and advancing their interest. Some of the

framework adopted by many developing countries has done vast damage to local industries. In the specific case of the textile industry the full liberalization of the textile market following the adoption of the WTO guidelines by the Abacha regime in 1997 had led to the unprecedented decline in textile and garment manufacturing in Nigeria. These developments in the industry and the

was to accomplish this goal of bringing a new constituency into the union without endangering its basis of support among factory workers steeped into a robust tradition of participatory organizing.

How the union fares in the years ahead will depend largely on the success of its campaign in reviving textile industries as much as its continued success in organizing self-employed tailors and garment makers.

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*Our priority is to leave behind a worthy labour movement committed to the protection of the rights and privileges of the working class. This is our goal, a goal which we hope posterity will be proud of us.*

... Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole



# A VETERAN'S

## COMRADE ALH. LAMIDI OYEBANJI SHITTU



L. O. SHITTU, Senior Advocate of Workers, Life President

absentia.

In 1969, Faleti left to Israel and a different group wanted to take over the union. At that point, I was asked to become the President. In 1969, during the conference, I presented the statement of account and the house was dissolved. At that time, I was on annual leave, and I was not allowed to enter the factory. I just went to attend the conference; there I was nominated for the position of President. From then, until I left NTM in 1978, I was reelected and even made life President in 1976. I recalled that in 1975, I was elected in absentia. Three times the election was conducted, three times I won. The then President of the Nigeria Trade Union Congress (NTUC) Comrade Wahab Goodluck sent an NTUC official to conduct the final election.

### FROM PART TIME TO FULL TIME OFFICER

I became full time President in 1976. As a full time President, I began organizing beyond NTM. We were already working with other groups in Lagos and outside Kaduna. J.I.B Esho who had lost his job in NTM took up appointment as General Secretary of Textile, Garment and Allied Union with headquarters in Kaduna. At a point the body couldn't pay Esho's salary of 60 pounds and we agreed to pay that from the NTM union purse. Alhaji Abutu of Kaduna Textile was the President of the body.

Following the restructuring of the union in 1978, I became a full time organizer of the union until I retired as Senior Deputy General Secretary of the union in 1997, almost two decades ago.

### WHAT FUTURE FOR THE INDUSTRY?

It will spring back. A similar thing happened in England and England bounced back. Government should not give money alone to stakeholders but monitor what comes into the industry. The market is there, provided the government is there to provide the necessary support and control imports.

### EARLY YEARS

*My journey in Union Activism:*

'I never expected I was going to be a trade union activist. Two days after I was employed there was crisis in NTM after which many trade union officials were sacked. I came out; I spoke against the manipulation of our management in our affairs. This made people to identify me.

After two years, there was crisis in NTM with regards to transfer of the general manager from Enugu to another

...the union was in a state of confusion. I was elected as the first president of the union. I was elected as the first president of the union. I was elected as the first president of the union. I was elected as the first president of the union.

confidence among the over 5000 members with regards to the management of union finances. So when I became financial Secretary, I bought exercise books for shopstewards to keep records of union dues collected in the different departments. This act of openness and transparency won the hearts of workers who were wary to elect me as the incumbent president, Faleti. I was very close to Faleti and I refused to contest against him. I ran away from the election yet, I was elected Financial Secretary in



# CAPACITY BUILDING



Bageco North Inplant



Nichtex Inplant



Waga North Inplant



Tacks East Inplant



Chelco Inplant



Sunflag Inplant

# VETERANS' CHAT

## COMR. UMARU MUHAMMED

## NOSIRU ADEYINKA LAWAL



**General Secretary in charge of Industrial Relations in the north.**

**Alhaji Umaru Muhammed granted interview to Textile Worker News** **to discuss his experience and contribution to the union and labour movement in Nigeria.**

*What are your notable contributions/achievements to*



**MY JOURNEY INTO INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

payment) for all workers who worked throughout the holiday. Some of us worked all through the holiday. But surprisingly, we were only paid our normal wage. We workers in filament and fibre department therefore went on a work to rule. The

the success story of the union. First and foremost, in 1978, there

was a crisis in Zamfara. I was called to resolve the crisis. I was

very hostile which made it very difficult for any officer of the union to go there to resolve the crisis and also carry out other union

activities. However, as a representative of the union, I was invited to Zamfara. When I resumed work in Zamfara instead of facing

resistance, I was able to put in place a functional branch union in the factory. I also established the

of having allowance in the factory which was

After discussions with management, the union succeeded in

subsequently introduced in all other textile industries.

implement an pending agreements there. It was also the same for Fintex/Nortex and then blanket industry in Kaduna.

One of the most difficult unionization I ever got involved in was the unionization of Universal Group of Company in Kano. The group which had been in existence since 2980's resisted unionization until 1992 when God helped us to succeed and put in place a branch union after months of mobilizing and sensitizing. We went through almost the same process in Nigeria spinners and Dyers also in Kano.

In 1987, I became principal Assistant General Secretary II. After the death of Comrade Wahab Ayanwale who was the Deputy General Secretary, I was privileged to be promoted to the post of Deputy General Secretary above my seniors in the union then. In 2000, I acted as the General Secretary when the substantive General Secretary Comrade Adams Oshiomhole was elected as the Nigeria Labour Congress President. I also acted as General Secretary in 2005 when Comrade Issa Aremu, the substantive General Secretary went for a course in the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies.

Auditor until 1996 when I was elected as National president of the union.

### UNION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Over the years, I was privileged to attend several training programmes. People like me (Lawal), Gerald, Olanitori benefitted from union training. I was sent to Afro Asian institution, Israel for 6 months programmes in industrial relations. For these numerous opportunities, I remain grateful to our leaders. They include Comrades Adams Oshiomhole, L. O .Shittu, A. B. Dania, late Boniface Isiguzoro etc.

### TRADE UNION; BREEDING GROUND FOR LEADERSHIP

Anyone that is trained properly in our Union, in whatever field he/she finds his/herself later, he will succeed. Even in the family, it reflects. The union moulded me such that I can fit into any area of human endeavour. For this, I remain grateful to the union and her leaders, past and present.

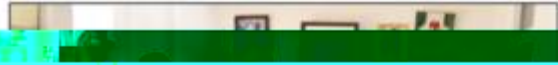
# NATIONAL SOLIDARITY



At the 40th Anniversary of NURTW

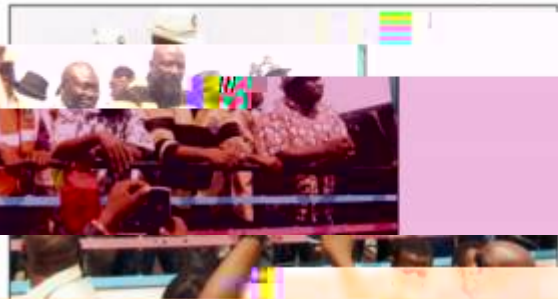


NUTGTWN hosts NLC President, Comrade Ayuba Wabba mni, in Lagos



2017 Decent Work Day Rally in Abuja

NUTGTWN hosts NUCFRLANMPE President, Comrade B. G. Olatunji, in Kaduna



At a national rally in Abuja



At a national rally in Abuja



At a national rally in Kaduna



At a national rally in Kaduna

## A VETERAN'S CHAT

### ALHAJI ARUWAN DANKE SULEIMAN



industries were established such as Nortex, UNTL, and Arewa Textile in Kaduna, the trade union was extended to other places.

**Question: How was the The Textile Union formed in both the North and South?**

Because of the fact that unionism in Lagos was more advanced and enlightened, trade union started from Lagos and gradually extended to Kaduna. Though it was tough for the union then because employers were seriously against organized labour but at the end, the trade union was established in KTL and later extended to other textile industries through series of seminars and training at local level.

**Question: How did the National Union of Textile came about the secretariat?**

Initially, an office was rented along Junction road near Rada Cinema, it was used for meeting venue for the union. Eventually, the union decided to build a secretariat as

The lands were not sold for the union by the government because they are an owned lands, as well as owned by the government.

**Question: As a former National President of the Textile Union, can you tell us your journey into Trade Unionism?**

I joined the textile industry in September 14th, 1961 with Kaduna Textile in KAKURE. I was posted to weaving school for 24 months for industrial training. At the completion of the training, I was posted to the weaving department as an Assistant Operator Weaver.

My first encounter with the union was on the payday, when a man approached me and asked me to pay union due, the man known as a (Shopsteward). I refused to pay and it led to a quarrel, this brought my master to the scene. My master asked the cause of the fight and I told him. He explained to me the reason I have to pay the union due; he even paid his own right there in my presence. When I saw my master paying, it prompted me to pay mine as well. Since I became fully aware of the union and pay my levy as at that time.

One fateful day, the man known as Shopsteward informed me about the union meeting taking place that day. On getting to the venue of the meeting, I was surprised at the large population of workers attending the meeting. At the meeting, I became curious and asked series of questions, one of such questions was the reason for the payment of union dues. Other workers were pleased with my question and I became popular for my boldness among them. Before the end of the meeting that particular day, election was carried out and I was nominated.

**Question : Can you give a brief history on how Textile Union was formed?**

Initially, there was no union education but there was a man known as Abubakar Abutu, he was the Leader of the workers. Abubakar was known for his fearless attitude even towards the British and was able to manage the workers at KTL. Due to lack of knowledge of workers about trade unionism, seminars were organized, awareness was created by other union workers from various places and was able to be enlightened; that was how the Trade Union was established in KTL. When other textile

When the effort to secure a land from the state government by the union proved abortive, I later offered the Union my own land purchased for my personal use. The union inspected the land and decided to make use of it. My money was refunded to me double out of excitement and the secretariat was built on the land.

**Question: During your days as a Unionist, there were a lot of textile industries but now most of them are closed down. What do you have to say?**

It is very sad that thousands of workers became jobless because of this and were unable to cater for their families.



# UNION CAMPAIGNS

The union has deployed its strength in several campaigns relating to the survival of the industry and members welfare. Over the years the union has been the leading vanguard in the struggle for

favorable policy for the revival of local industries, in particular the textile industry. The series of campaigns has resulted in series of policy regimes. Unfortunately industrial policies have suffered lack of effective

implementation, but the unending effort of the union and other stakeholders brought about the National Industrial Policy in 2015 and specific policy framework for the revival of textile industry, the Cotton Textile Garment

Policy. The union continues to press for its effective implementation. Also as part of the broad struggle for the revival of industries, the union has leveraged on national and global labour solidarity to further deepen the

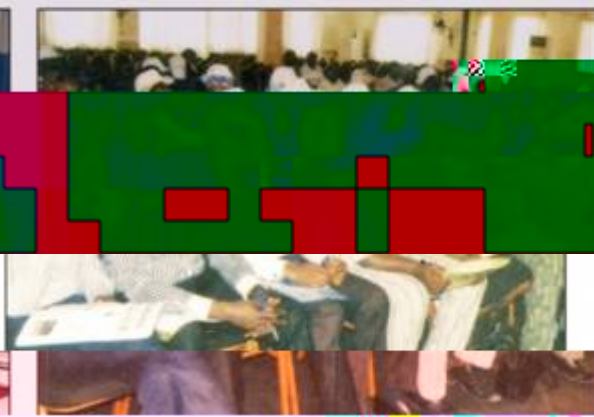
campaign for industry under the banner of Africa Industrialization Day on 20th November every year to further promote the benefaction of agricultural and mineral resources. Other areas of interest in union

campaigns include health and safety, HIV/AIDS, voters sensitization among others. The union continues to promote members understanding and interest in matters that affect them, the industry and the society at large.



AED/Smartwork HIV/AIDS Workplace Campaign 2008

HIV/AIDS Workplace Campaign in Kano





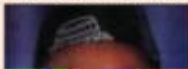
# UNION CAMPAIGNS



**BLESSED ARE OUR  
LATE COMRADES**



**BELLO MOHAMMED**



**BONIFACE ISIGUZORO**



**E. O. OLALEKE**



**DAVID UGONDO**



**WAHAB AYANWALE**



**SAMSON OMORUAN**

**ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS  
FROM 1978-DATE**

YEAR	NAME	POST	BRANCH
1978-1980	BELLO MUHAMMED	PRESIDENT	AREWA TEXTILE LIMITED, KADUNA
	MATHEW ESSIEN	1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	PRESIDENT CLOTHING LAGOS
	MACHEAL NWALOGIDI	2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	ASABA TEXTILE LIMITED ASABA
	ARUWA D. SULEIMAN	TREASURER	KADUNA TEXTILE LIMITED
	NDUKA OHIA	INTERNAL AUDITOR	COAST WEST AFRICAN THREAD LAGOS
	JIMOH YUSUF	INTERNAL AUDITOR	G.D.M TEXTILE LAGOS
	BENJAMIN ERINSHO	TRUSTEE	DELTEX MILL LAGOS
	BONIFACE ISIGUZORO	TRUSTEE	VERAMAN TEXTILE
	REUBEN AHONSI	TRUSTEE	NITOL TEXTILE LAGOS
	MICHAEL U. NWAOLIGIDI	2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	ASABA TEXTILE MILL
	ROBERT AGWU	TREASURER	AREWA TEXTILE KADUNA
	BODE FEYITIMI	INTERNAL AUDITOR	BHOJSON LAGOS
	EDWARD AYIKA	INTERNAL AUDITOR	NICHEMTEX LAGOS
	ROBERT AGWU	TREASURER	AREWA TEXTILE KADUNA
	DAVID UGONDO	INTERNAL AUDITOR	FIVE STAR INDUSTRIES, LAGOS
	OLUREMI MORAKUYO	TRUSTEE	TEXTLON LAGOS
	ITORO N. OROK	TRUSTEE	COAST WEST AFRICAN THREAD LAGOS
	NDUKA OHIA	INTERNAL AUDITOR	G.D.M TEXTILE LAGOS
	ABAYOMI ONI	INTERNAL AUDITOR	SUNFLAG LAGOS
	OLALEKAN MOSHOOD	INTERNAL AUDITOR	SUNFLAG LAGOS
1989-1992	BONIFACE ISIGUZORO	PRESIDENT	VERAMAN LAGOS
	MATHIAS UDELE	1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	UNITEX LIMITED KADUNA
	GERALD UNADIKE	2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	GENERAL COTTON MILL, ONITSHA
	DAVID UGONDO	TREASURER	UNT PLC KADUNA
	SHAIBU MOHAMMED	TRUSTEE	KADUNA TEXTILE LIMITED
	EZEKIEL OTUBU	TRUSTEE	N.T.M LAGOS
	MATHEW OLANITORI	TRUSTEE	DALTEX LAGOS
	OLUSOLA OYASODUN	TRUSTEE	N.S.F LAGOS
	OLUSOLA BALOGUN	INTERNAL AUDITOR	TEXTLON LAGOS
	NASIRU LAWAL	INTERNAL AUDITOR	NICHEMTEX IKORODU LAGOS
1992-1996	BONIFACE ISIGUZORO	PRESIDENT	VERAMAN LAGOS
	GERALD UNADIKE	1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	GCM ONITSHA
	SHAIBU MOHAMMED	2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT	KADUNA TEXTILE LIMITED
	DAVID UGONDO	TREASURER	UNT PLC KADUNA
	SHAIBU HAMZA	TRUSTEE	SUPERTEX LIMITED KADUNA
	LUKE EMENIKE	TRUSTEE	SUNFLAG LAGOS
	EZEKIEL O. OTUBU	TRUSTEE	NTM IKEJA
	MATHEW OLANITORI	INTERNAL AUDITOR	DALAMA TEXTILE LAGOS
	NASIRU LAWAL	INTERNAL AUDITOR	NICHEMTEX IKORODU LAGOS

## BLESSED ARE OUR LATE COMRADES



EMMANUEL AMADI



BULUS UVU



HAUWA AMBI



EMMANUEL GBEV



LAWRENCE MOLADE



JOHN IGYUSE



JOHNBULL OJO

## ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS FROM 1978-DATE

YEAR	NAME	POST	BRANCH
1996-2000	NASIRU A. LAWAL ADAMS OSHOMOLE GERALD UNADIKE DAVID UGONDO EMMANUEL GBEV VICTOR IROAGBA ABUBAKAR DANLADI MUHAMMED KACHALLA MATHEW OLANITORI JOSEPH A. ADEWUMI JAMES OSASUYI CHIMEZIE SYLVESTER	PRESIDENT GENERAL SECRETARY 1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT TREASURER TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR	NICHEMTEX IKORODU LAGOS  GCM ONITSHA UNT PLC KADUNA KADUNA TEXTILE LIMITED NINTOL TEXTILE LIMITED GASKIYA TEXTILE KANO UNT PLC KADUNA DALAMA TEXTILE LIMITED SPECOMILL IKORODU LAGOS ENPEE INDUSTRIES LAGOS JAY BEE INDUSTRIAL LAGOS
2000-2004	NASIRU A. LAWAL ADAMS OSHOMOLE DAVID UGONDO GERALD UKAGAH REGINALD AGULANA MIKHAIL IBRAHIM LUCKY EMEGHA DISU AJIBADE ISAAC NWAGWU SYLVESTER ANWALIMHOBOR GABRIEL AREMU ISIKA SOYOMBO	PRESIDENT GENERAL SECRETARY 1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT TREASURER TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR	NICHEMTEX IKORODU LAGOS  UNT PLC KADUNA GCM ONITSHA SUPERTEX LIMITED KADUNA AREWA TEXTILE KADUNA DANGOTE TEXTILE KADUNA HONG KONG SYNTHETIC LAGOS ARCEE INDUSTRIES LAGOS ENPEE INDUSTRIES LAGOS BHOJSON/BHOJRAJ LAGOS GLOBESPIN LAGOS
2004-2008	REGINALD AGULANNA ADAMS OSHOMOLE MIKHAIL IBRAHIM DELE HUNSU CHICHI EMEOGHO LUCKY EMEGHA HAUWA AMBI USULOR HYCIENT JOSEPH ADEWUMI AJALA MURTALA JOSEPH YAHAYA GABRIEL AREMU EMMANUEL EZERAH	PRESIDENT GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER 1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY SECRETARY 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR	SUPERTEX LIMITED KADUNA  AREWA TEXTILE KADUNA NIG. BAG MFG LAGOS ASABA TEXTILE LIMITED DANGOTE TEXTILE KADUNA UNT PLC KADUNA UNT PLC IKORODU LAGOS SPECOMILL IKORODU LAGOS ITI ISOLO LAGOS ZARIA INDUSTRIES LIMITED BHOJSON/BHOJRAJ LAGOS DORAH TEXTILE LAGOS
2008-2012	REGINALD AGULANNA ISSA AREMU MIKHAIL IBRAHIM DELE HUNSU ABDUL ADAMU LUCKY EMEGHA ROSE OKONJI AJALA MURTALA JOHN ADAJI JOSEPH OMOTAYO EMMANUEL EZERAH	PRESIDENT GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER 1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY SECRETARY 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR	UNT PLC KADUNA  CHELLCO INDUSTRIES KADUNA NIG. BAG MFG LAGOS UNIVERSAL TEXTILE KANO ATM KANO NBM LAGOS ISOLO LAGOS ITI ISOLO LAGOS UNT PLC KADUNA SPINTEX IKORODU LAGOS DORAH TEXTILE LAGOS
2012-2016	DELE HUNSU ISSA AREMU JOHN ADAJI ABDUL ADAMU HARUNA LAWAL LUCKY EMEGHA JOSEPH YAHAYA FATAI ADEPOJU GAMBO USMAN SHUAIBU KADIRI FUNMILAYO ISA	PRESIDENT GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER 1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY SECRETARY 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR CHAIR, WOMN COMMITT.	NIG. BAG MFG LAGOS  UNT PLC KADUNA UNIVERSAL TEXTILE KANO FUNTUA TEXTILE LIMITED ATM KANO ZARIA INDUSTRIES LIMITED COTSYLN NSD SUNFLAG LIMITED SUNFLAG
2016-Date	JOHN ADAJI ISSA AREMU LAWAL HARUNA ABDUL ADAMU BABATUNDE YUSUF AMINU SULEIMEN SYLVESTER CHIMEZIE ISMAIL BELLO DELE OJO ANGELA ASHI ILABOR USMAN GAMBO MARTIN KUNDI FRANK FRANCIS MICHEAL SAIBU R. KADIRI ONABANJO O.LATEEF FUNMILAYO ISA	PRESIDENT GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER 1 <sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY SECRETARY 2 <sup>ND</sup> DEPUTY PRESIDENT DEP. GEN. SECRETARY DEP. GEN. SECRETARY DEP. GEN. SECRETARY TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE TRUSTEE INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR CHAIR, WOMEN COMMITT.	UNTEX KADUNA  FUNTUA TEXTILE, KATSINA UNIVERSAL TEXTILE KANO SUNFLAG  SPINTEX NSD, KANO CHELLCO INDUSTRIES KADUNA DANGOTE AGRO SACKS LAGOS SUNFLAG LIMITED NICHEMTEX LAGOS SUNFLAG

# GLOBAL SOLIDARITY



L-R Comr. John Adaji President, NUTGTWN, Comr. Chimezie Sylvester DGS, NUTGTWN, Comr. Fummi Isa Chairperson, Women Committee NUTGTWN and other Delegates at the IndustriALL Conference in Rio, Brazil in 2016



L-R Comr. Bobbie Marie and Paul Puritt with Comr. Issa Aremu mni General Secretary, NUTGTWN



The union's Delegates and other participants at the IndustriALL Conference in Rio, Brazil in 2016



Jyrki Raina former General Secretary, IndustriALL Global Union making a presentation during the 2015 Africa Industrialization Day Round Table Discussion



Mr Carlos Trejo Sosa former Cuba Ambassador to Nigeria, his wife and Comr. Issa Aremu mni during their Courtesy Visit to the Union Secretariat in Lagos



Comr. Issa Aremu mni and other Delegates during IndustriALL Global Union Conference



Africa Industrialization Day 2017 in Abuja



Comrade Falcmy Abrahams of SACTWU with Comr. Issa Aremu mni GS, NUTGTWN at the 2007 Education Conference.



Comrade Etienne Vlok at NUTGTWN Education Conference in Kaduna 2016



IndustriALL Global Union Conference in Rio, Brazil 2016

# GLOBAL SOLIDARITY



Pan-Africanism Congress, Accra, Ghana 2018



Comr. Josephine Fashanu, Comr. John Adaji, Comr. Issa Aremu mni and Comr. Tina of Medical & Health Workers Union at the Pan-Africanism Congress, Accra, Ghana 2018



Nigerian Delegates at the IndustriALL Global Union Conference in Rio, Brazil



L-R Comr. Issa Aremu mni, Paul Paritt of Canadian Labour Congress and Comr. Adams Oshiomhole at the NLC Rain School, Calabar 2003



Comr. Andre Kriel of SACTWU at the NUTGTWN Conference in Benin, 2000



FES Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa in October, 2017



Comr. John Adaji and other Participants at the Pan-Africanism Conference, Tunisia, 2017



Comr. John Adaji making a presentation during the 2016 IndustriALL Regional Meeting held in Accra, Ghana.



IndustriALL Women Exco Meeting in Lagos, November 2013



Comrades Lateefah Okanlawon & Lawal Haruna presenting a Souvenir to a Facilitator at the Nkrumah School 2017

# WOMEN IN THE UNION

Since the mid 1990s with the support of the ILO and in particular the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), NUTGTWN has given priority attention to education and capacity development for women members and as a way of

promoting women participation in the union. The series of the education activities has been followed with constitution amendments in 2000, 2008, 2012 and 2016 all consolidating women development and involvement in leadership

structures at all level of the union. The year 2004 was a significant milestone in NUTGTWN as the 2004 National Delegates' Conference elected Comr. Chichi Emeogo of Asaba Textile Mill, Delta State and Hauwa Ambi of UNT Plc. Kaduna as 2nd

Deputy President and National Trustee respectively. In 2004 also she had the first National Women Conference. At the Conference, Rita Ogbeni of Afprints Lagos emerges as the Chairperson. It is significant also that since 2004, the union has

implemented dutifully, the affirmative action clause reserving one position of Exco for a woman as the branch level. With these constitutional changes and increased mobilization and recruitment of female members who are self-

employed tailors, there is a greater prospect for broadening women participation in the union structure and also expanding NUTGTWN's prospect for meeting the 40 percent target for women representation set by the IndustriALL Global Union.



Participants during the 2013 Women Conference in Ilorin, Kwara State



Chichi Emeogo 1st Female Deputy President NUTGTWN, Hauwa Ambi 1st Female Trustee at a Workshop in Abuja 2002



R-L Comr. Ismail Bello, Comr. John Adaji and Comr. Ayuba Wabba President, NLC and NUTGTWN Women Delegates during the NLC Women National Delegates Conference.



Women having a group discussion during one of the union's women workshop



Cross section of women during one of the union's women workshops



Dr. Joe Odumakin making an address during the 2017 International Women's Day



Dr. Joe Odumakin and Officers of the union during 2017 International Women's Day



Tailors in a group photograph during the 2012 Annual Education Conference in Osogbo, in Osun State

# WOMEN IN THE UNION



# ORGANISING TAILORS & KAMPALA MAKERS

**N**UTGTWN remains committed to organizing and recruitment both in the formal and the informal sector.

Organizing is central to the survival of NUTG and indeed all other trade union organizing in the face of factory closure and decline membership as a result of attendant job losses.

In 2005, the first sets of tailors were organized in Lagos and subsequently, several others were recruited and organized in Kaduna, Benue, Edo, Kwara and Kano States.

To consolidate on the achievements so far made, the union organized and recruited a good number of tailors in Kogi (Okene), Kebbi, Zamfara, Niger, FCT, Sokoto, Imo, Benue, and Katsina states.

Given the import of organizing and recruitment particularly of tailors in the informal sector, the union continues to enhance and develop skills and capacity of its organizers on the new strategy of organizing. From 2009, the union organized series of Capacity Building Workshops for Union Organizers.

As part of the effort to further strengthen recruitment in this sector and improve the skills capacity of members in informal sector, the Union is working in concert with United Nation Industrial Development Organisation, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria, Bank of Industry, Industrial Training Fund and National Directorate of Employment to establish a structured platform for regular training and capacity development of self-employed tailors.



Niger State Delegates during the Inauguration of Abuja Unit of NUTGTWN



Newly elected Officers of NUTGTWN Tailors Unit of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.



Members of Kogi State Tailors during the 2014 Education Conference in Ilorin, Kwara State



Officers of the Union and Members of Kebbi State Tailors Unit during the Inauguration of the State Unit of NUTGTWN



Members of Edo State Tailors Unit of NUTGTWN during the Inauguration of the State Unit



Officers of Union with the Members of Tie and Die Makers of Lagos State



Members of Lagos State Tailors during the Eko @ 50 Celebration





# 1978 - 2018: PRESIDENTS & GENERAL SECRETARIES



**LATE MOHAMMED BELLO**  
President 1978 - 1983



**A. D. SULEIMAN**  
President 1983 - 1989



**LATE BONIFACE ISIGUZORO**  
President 1989 - 1996



**NOSIRU LAWAL**  
President 1996 - 2004



**REGINALD UWA AGULANNA**  
President 2004 - 2012



**OLADELE HUNSU**  
President 2012 - 2016



**E. O. OLALEKE**  
General Secretary 1978 - 1982

**UNION  
MAKES US  
STRONG!**



**ADAMS OSHIOMHOLE mni**  
General Secretary 1982 - 2008



**JOHN ADAJI**  
President 2016 to Date



**ISSA AREMU mni**  
General Secretary 2008 to Date

# PAST EDUCATION CONFERENCES



L-R Engr. Bunu Sheriff Musa, former Minister of Labour, Dabo Lere former Kaduna Governor and NUTG President Boniface Isiguzoro during the 1992 Annual National Education Conference in Kaduna



Barr. Femi Falana delivering a Paper at the 1993 Annual Education Conference held in Benin, Edo State.



1994 Annual Education Conference, Jos, Plateau State.



Cross section of Guests at the 1994 Annual Education Conference, Jos, Plateau State.



At the 1995 Annual Education Conference, Ibadan, Oyo State.



Alh. Maitama Sule (Dan Masanin Kano) at the 1997 Annual Education Conference, Kano State.



Cross section of NUTG Leadership and Guests at the 1999 Annual Education Conference, Jos, Plateau State.



2003 Annual Education Conference in Abuja



At the 2004 Annual Education Conference, Kaduna State.

At the 2005 Annual Education Conference, Kano State.



At the 2006 Annual Education Conference, Lagos State.

At the 2007 Annual Education Conference, Jos, Plateau State.



At the 2010 Annual Education Conference, Kaduna State.

At the 2011 Annual Education Conference, Lagos State.



# A VETERAN'S CHAT

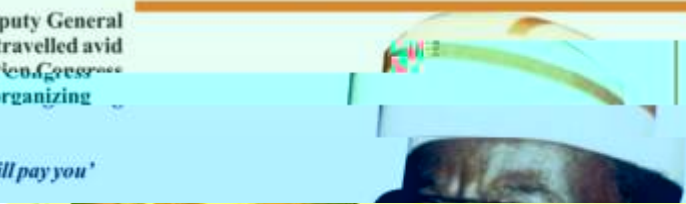
## COMRADE A.B. DANIA

Comrade A.B. Dania retired as Senior Deputy General Secretary of the union in 1997. The well-travelled avid organizer has been very active in the Action Congress Party in Lagos state where he continued to put his organizing and trade union skills to use.

*'... ndu ik' : en'ana organ'ize me workers they will pay you'*

### My Journey into Trade Unionism

I became active in trade union activities in 1971 when I was employed by the Lagos State Transport Corporation. I joined the Transport Workers Union of Nigeria (TWUN) and worked as a shop steward. I was also a member of the Lagos State Action Congress (LSAC) and was involved in various social and political activities.



I became...  
...and...  
...the...  
...and...

again to International Peoples' College, Denmark from 1971 to 1973. When I came back, I joined the NTUC and the president of the union was Comrade Alade Obidiye. He urged us not to rely on anyone and to organize the workers, they will pay you. He urged us not to be afraid of the government's wrath. I managed to stir the affairs of the union without any acrimony.

I acted as Asst. General Secretary for 10 months in 1987 when the substantive General Secretary, Comrade Adams Oshiomhore was absent. I managed to stir the acrimony.

ON the 15th of June 1988, the union was dissolved and the workers were sent to various parts of the country. I knew the condition of the union when I retired. I see the union continue to make progress. Fight for the future of the union. I tried to monitor the situation in Lagos, Enugu,...

At that time, it was very difficult to organize and get recognition. THE FUTURE OF THE UNION was organizing from 1974 to 1998 when the trade unions were reconstructed by the government. Most of the unions we organized included Textile factories like Westex, AD Gulab and the confinement. Comrade Alade Obidiye was the branch house union. I was the president of the clothing, Jeangru, Jiora Textile Mill, Arcee... times read at...

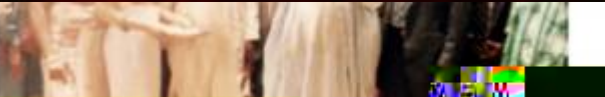
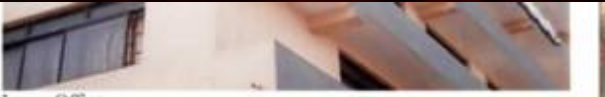
Under the umbrella of the NTUC, CHALLENGES The challenges of our time are not as cumbersome as they are today because of the issue of closures. During our time there were...

government truly wants to develop our society, industrialization is the key. Clothing is one of the essential necessities of human kind, so the need for survival of textile is there with our population; the market is there. The government must protect local industries by promoting patronage of made in Nigeria and supporting local industries to be competitive.





Kaduna Office



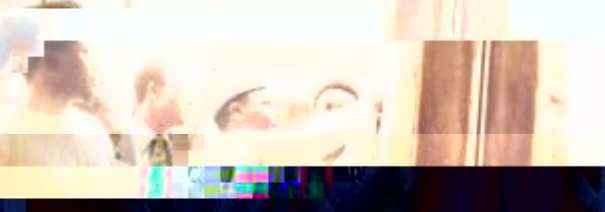
Asaba Office



Abuja Apartment



Kano Office



Cross section of Guests and Officers of the Union during the Opening Ceremony of the 29th Annual Education Conference held in Sokoto State in 2017.



L-R Comr. John Adaji President, NUTGTWN, His Lordship Bishop Hassan Kukah, Comr. Issa Aremu mni chanting the Solidarity song during the Conference



Cross section of participants during a Group Work at the 2017 Annual Education Conference in Sokoto State.



Participants at 2017 Annual Education Conference



Participants, Veterans and other Officers of the Union in Group photograph during the 2017 Annual Education Conference held in Sokoto State.



Newly elected officers of Sokoto State Branch of NUTGTWN taking their Oath of Office



Group photograph of Guests, Officers and Participants at the Conference

# FES: A WORTHY PARTNER

The FES played a critical role supporting several union publications. In particular, the support for the production of Shop-Stewards Training Manual in the 90s proved quite useful in accelerating shopfloor education and in building conscious Cadres skilled in the art of industrial relations.

The union remains grateful for the supportive roles of the FES for capacity building for organizers since 2008. This activity has helped to clarify the challenges around organizing of semi-employed workers and also helped improve the capacity of union organizers.

Also since 2008, FES has been an important ally in the structured engagement with government for revival of Textile Industries through the consistent support for the annual policy dialogue meetings with stakeholders. This together with the support for the Africa Industrialization Day has raised hope for new policy directions for the industry.

We thank the FES for the several supports for local and international training for several generations of union officials as we look forward to greater support and collaborations in the years ahead.





# The Textile Worker

PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEXTILE, GARMENT AND TAILORING WORKERS OF NIGERIA

## BRING BACK TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Nigeria is currently facing crises of unemployment, poverty and extreme inequality. Over 60 percent of the population which is about 100 million people live on less than one dollar a day. This state of affairs has resulted largely on account of factory closures and massive job losses that have characterized the economy over the last two decades.

At its peak, the Textile Industry employed over 500,000 workers directly, with several thousands of others earning their living providing support services to the industry and the workforce.

Given the current rate of unemployment and the intolerable level of poverty, industrial revival particularly the revival of Textile industries remains the genuine hope for addressing the unemployment quagmire and also lifting our people out of poverty in the short and medium term.

There is greater prospect of revival if the Government can commit faithfully to the programme of

actions contained in the National Industrial Revolution Plan and in particular the policy actions

government take decisive action on the issue of smuggling of printed fabrics and second-hand

particular urgent attention should be paid to smuggling and high cost of Gas for local industries.

patronage of made in Nigeria textile fabrics and allied products. We call for immediate implementation of

On the long term Government must provide enabling environment for new investment in machineries and



support for capacity and skills building in the industry.

The prospect of a revival of Textile industry is huge for jobs and improved prosperity for the ordinary Nigerians. It is time to take policy actions and bring back our industries.

prescribed in the Cotton, Textile and Garment (CTG) Policy document. It is important that

clothing. It is also critical that the issue of electricity supply to industries is addressed. In

It is key that government through its procurement polices lead in the

Executive order 2003 on patronage of made in Nigeria goods on public procurement.

