



Bolgatanga Technical University (BTU)

Technical University Teachers' Association of Ghana (TUTAG)

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Our Ref: BTU/TUTAG/strike/ESB/004

Your Ref:



August 25, 2023

ALL MEDIA HOUSES

A JOINT PRESS RELEASE: DECLARATION OF A STRIKE ACTION

At separate meetings of the Bolgatanga Branch of the Technical University Teachers' Association of Ghana (TUTAG) and the Technical University Senior Administrators' Association of Ghana (TUSAAG) held on the 25th of August, 2023, it was unanimously agreed that our Vice Chancellor (VC) is seeking to vary portions of our Conditions of Service (CoS) as approved by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), by hiding behind claims of ambiguities in the Technical Universities Act (2016), Act 922 as Amended, to which we out-rightly reject. Therefore, with effect from 1.00 pm today, 25th August, 2023, we have withdrawn all our services. Our strike action is based on misinterpretations of portions of our CoS pertaining to the retirement benefit by the Vice Chancellor to our disadvantage.


We therefore resolved that:

1. We strongly reject our Vice Chancellor's absurd interpretation of our CoS where he seeks to departmentalise the payment of our retirement benefits for our retirees by paying only three months (3) salary for the number of years served under the Polytechnic and then One (1) month salary for every year served effective only after 2031. We insist that any TUTAG or TUSAAG member who served for continuous 10 years under the erstwhile Polytechnic system automatically qualifies as an accrued right to enjoy this retirement benefit as pertains in other Technical Universities (TUs) across the country.
2. Our position in one (1) above is supported by Section 42 (6) of the Technical Universities Act (2016), Act 922 as amended which states that "*A person in the employment of a polytechnic in existence immediately before the coming into force of this Act, shall, be deemed to have been duly employed by the respective Technical University established under this Act on the terms and conditions attached to the post held by that person before the coming into force of this Act*".

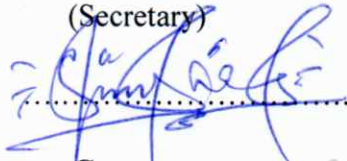
3. If the framers of the Technical Universities Amendments Act, Act 974 (2018) intended to go by our VC's interpretation, then they should have paid off every staff under the Polytechnic dispensation before the transition. Staff of the Technical Universities should then have been employed as new staff in the TUs. Since that was not done, then we insist that the retirement benefits of our retirees should be paid in accordance with the enshrined transitional provisions as in point two (2) above just as is being interpreted and implemented by all other Technical Universities (TUs) across the country. We refuse to be treated differently from what pertains in other TUs.
4. What our Vice Chancellor is trying to do amounts to a variation in our CoS which we shall not accept in any way, shape or form.
5. We find Ghana Tertiary Education Commission's (GTEC) decision to refer this matter to the Attorney General for interpretation as a time wasting tactic since GTEC's submission at the NLC on the 23rd of August, 2023 indicated that the Attorney General interpretation was only to guide the commission regarding the "perceived" ambiguity and shall not be binding on any Technical University (TU). So, if the essence of the Attorney General's so called interpretation of the Transitional Provisions is only to serve as a guide for GTEC, then we consider this whole exercise as delay tactics. Besides, it is a known fact that, the Attorney General is not clothed with the powers to interpret laws in Ghana. May be at best, provide legal advice.
6. We demand the immediate payment of the internal component of the Online Teaching Support Allowance (OTSA) and its accrued arrears for teaching staff that have not been paid since January, 2022, unlike other TUs that have paid up to date.
7. Reference to our (TUTAG & TUSAAG) July 13th and 19th respective letters to the NLC, We of the Bolgatanga Branches of TUTAG and TUSAAG have hereby withdrawn all our services effective 1.00 pm today, the 25th of August, 2023 until all our demands are met.

TUTAG

1. Dr. Oswald Atiga
(Chairman)

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2. Dr. George Nangpaak Duut
(Secretary)

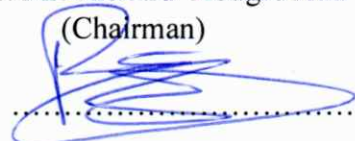
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Cc:

Council Chairman, Vice Chancellor, SRC - BTU

TUSAAG

1. Mr. Richard Abugre Atia
(Chairman)

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2. Miss Mathilda Azeko
(Organising Secretary)

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