



Goodluck Jonathan
President
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Abuja,
Nigeria

Tuesday, 30 April 2013

Mr. President,

Re : violation of labour rights in Nigeria's energy sector

Public Services International, a global federation of trade unions, has written you and your ministers concerning your misplaced policies on energy privatisation. We warned about the corruption which is endemic in the sector, and which will only thrive under privatisation.

We have been made aware that the federal government has been holding secret night-time talks with the chief executive officers of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria with the aim to cut hundreds, if not thousands of staff positions in preparation for the imminent privatisations. The government of Nigeria will also renege on agreements to pay severance benefits to workers as well as pension and transfer funds due to the Pension Fund Administrators.

The leadership of the union has got wind of this information and is alerting all members to prepare to down tools until the government fulfils its obligations.

PSI stands with our brave colleagues in denouncing the fraudulent privatisation policies and the draconian measures which will not only violate agreements, but will violate fundamental worker rights.

PSI insists that the government of Nigeria explain to its citizens why it is unable to deliver basic public services, even as it takes in billions from oil revenues. It will also need to explain in a few years why privatisation has completely failed to deliver the same services to those most in need, and where the billions of Naira have disappeared. We are aware that the energy privatisation is being done to enrich the cronies and well-placed, not to improve public services for Nigerians. It is high time that such blatant corruption be eradicated, both from government and industry, and that the rights of workers and peoples be made absolute priorities.

Respectfully,

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary, PSI

Cc Mansur M. Musa, President, NUEE
Joe Ajaero, General Secretary, NUEE