



# MINILS NEWSLETTER

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MINILS news crew wishes to congratulate the DG/CE Comrade Issa Aremu *mni, npom* on his birthday which came up on 8th Jan., 2024. We wish you God's continued guidance.



*Cross section of the matriculating students with university officials*

## MINILS MATRICULATES 84, AS DG TASKS STUDENTS ON LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), Ilorin has held the maiden matriculation ceremony for students admitted into the Institute's degree and National Diploma programmes.

Recall that the Institute received the approval of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) to run a National Diploma in Industrial and Labour Relations in

2014 and a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management in Affiliation with the University of Ilorin in 2020 respectively. In his address, the Director-General of the Institute, Comrade Issa Aremu, said that the academic programmes were introduced to complement the Institute's mandate of building the capacity of workers and employers of labour to achieve industrial harmony and sustainable development.

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### OUR VISION

To be a regional center of excellence in labour studies and globally renowned labour institution

### OUR MISSION

Building the capacity of workers, employers and government officials in labour and industrial relations through training, research, education and inter-institutional linkages to promote labour management relations best practices and industrial harmony for sustainable development

### OUR CORE VALUES

- Professionalism
- Inclusivity
- Dialogue
- Service Delivery
- Innovativeness
- Transparency
- Client-Focused
- Development
- Diversity and Gender Sensitivity

## **MINILS REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION OF STAFF**

Describing the event as 'historic', Mr Aremu noted that beyond the short term courses of one week for training of workers and employers of labour, the Institute saw a need to expose workers to the rigours of academic learning to know the theories of Industrial Relations and practice.

He reiterated the resolve of the Institute to promote education in line with the Sustainable Development Goal no.4 which, according to him, ensures inclusive, equitable and quality education promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Comrade Aremu, who said that the Institute is working hard to increase the number of student enrolment into its academic programmes, also disclosed that the Institute will partner with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), adding that it is through such partnership that it can get support in the area of funding for the programmes.

The Vice Chancellor of University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Egbewole who was represented by the University's Director, Centre for Affiliated Institutions, Prof. Ahmad Abdusalam, enjoined the matriculating students to exhibit good character and learning in line with the University's motto during and after their academic sojourn in the institution.

The Vice Chancellor further advised them on the need to abide by the rules and regulations guiding the institution and charged them to be good ambassadors of their various families and their Alma mater.

Earlier, the programme coordinator and Acting Head, Academic and Distance Learning Programmes (ADLP) of the Institute, Dr. Sylvanus Adamade commended the students for their doggedness and charged them to seize the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to excel in life.

Director-General/Chief Executive of Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINLIS), Ilorin, has reaffirmed the commitment of his administration towards ensuring the social protection of staff of the Institute.

Comrade Aremu gave this assurance while responding to some staff of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) who paid him a courtesy visit in his office on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

The Director-General, who reiterated his administration's commitment to any programme capable of providing social protection insurance or packages for the benefit of workers, assured the team of the Institute's readiness to comply with the implementation of compulsory deductions and remittances of statutory funds to the scheme.

He further advocated a sensitization and training programme for members of staff on the mandate of the NSITF in order to expose them to the benefits of the scheme.

Earlier, the Branch Manager of NSITF, Mrs Awani Medinat, urged the Management of the Institute to begin the statutory contributions of 1% of the emoluments of public servants into the Employee's Compensation Scheme (ECS) of the agency as directed by the Federal Government to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

While highlighting the importance of the Employee's Compensation Scheme, Mrs Awani stressed that it ensures that workers or their dependants are covered in case of any injury, accident, occupational disease, disability or death that may arise during the course of their work.

She further expressed her profound gratitude to the Management of the Institute for enrolling its members into the scheme and assured the Director-General of the agency's readiness to provide effective social welfare services to the employees of the Institute.

## MR EMMANUEL OJO: CELEBRATING A MAN WITH A HEART OF GOLD AT RETIREMENT

The Holy Books did not mince words in its teachings about sowing and reaping in relation to generosity. Mr Emmanuel Oladipo Ojo is one man who did not only understand this principle, but also practiced same within and outside his workplace at Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS) where he spent almost 35 years of his life in the service of his fatherland and retired on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

A very jovial, amiable and humble personality, Mr Emmanuel Ojo was notable for his diligence, dedication and devotion to service. In his relationship with his colleagues and other members of staff, he was popular for his generosity, cheerfulness and compassion.

Mr. Emmanuel Ojo joined the then National Institute for Labour Studies on September 11, 1989 as a Senior Clerical Officer (GL. 05). He rose through the ranks till he became the Director of Special Duties (CONRAISS 15) a few years before he retired. Throughout his time at MINILS, Mr Ojo's immense contributions to the Institute and positive impact to humanity did not go unnoticed.

That perhaps accounts for why some members of staff converged at the Institute's gate on his last day in office to usher him into the venue of his retirement/birthday ceremony which was organized in his honour by staff of Special Duties Division together with his friends in the Institute. One could feel the love radiating on their faces, and quite a lot of them including members of the Management as well as staff, had some good testimonies about him.

For the Director-General/Chief Executive, Comrade Issa Aremu, "Mr. Ojo is one Director I so much respect and value! MINILS will miss his maturity, experience and warmth. Disagreements are inevitable in the world of work. I bear witness that despite the stress of work, Mr. Ojo was never a disagreeable person. He is a true friend, brother who comforts all with his smile and kindness. My family will miss a true friend of the house!"

His colleagues had a lot to say about him. For Mr Ibrahim Akeyede, the Director of Finance and Accounts, Mr. Ojo is "a nice, caring and supportive colleague who always gives much attention to the welfare of anyone he comes in contact with." That supports the testimony of the Director, Social Protection Department (SPD), Mrs. Olaide Ajiboye, who described him as a meticulous person and one that is always ready to encourage and support others when the need arises.

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*Mr Ojo and family during the Retirement/Birthday Ceremony*



**Cont'd from pg. 3**

The Director, Labour Management Relation, Mr Ezekiel Ayorinde, who could barely conceal his excitement about the personality of Mr Ojo when he was approached to give his own testimony about the latter, expressed his delight that Mr Ojo was able to reach the peak of his career despite the challenges he encountered. He said, "Mr Ojo is one of the pioneer staff of the Institute who has contributed his quota to the progress of the Institute," while noting that his personal sacrifices in the life of the Institute and its staff cannot be easily erased from the sands of time.

For the Director of Human Resources Management, Dr. Danjuma Lawan, Mr Ojo is easy going, generous and bears no grudges against anyone, while the Head of Department, Academic and Distant Learning Programme (ADLP), Dr. Silvanus Adamade re-echoed his diligence and dedication to duty during his latter's days in active service. Laying credence to the testimonies of other colleagues, the Acting Head of Department, Planning Research and Curriculum Development, Mr Theophilus Tinuoye extolled Mr Ojo's humility, describing him as one "who is always open and at home with all staff regardless of cadre, religion, tribe, age or level", adding that he "belongs to the old school of civil servants whose watchword is service, diligence, delivery and satisfaction."

In the same vein, the Acting Head, Entrepreneurship Development Department (EDD), Mr Razaq Ajayi as well as an Assistant Director in Planning Research and Curriculum Development Department (PRCD), Mrs Amudat Ibrahim extolled his diligence and dedication to work and expressed delight that his many years of hard work paid off.

Other members of staff as well as an undergraduate student in the Institute, who recounted their experiences with him, lauded his generosity and magnanimity.

At the home front, Mr Ojo typifies a doting husband and a caring father. Testimonies from his wife, Mrs Florence Ojo and his children revealed that the father of four runs a home where love takes precedence above any other thing.

One of his children, Miss Kemi Ojo who spoke on behalf of the family described him as a loving and caring dad who has always sacrificed a lot for the well-being of his family, adding that "he does not call us by our names but by our professions."

Mr Ojo is being celebrated among his colleagues, friends and well-wishers for his good deeds. The fanfare that graced his exit and the show of love accorded him on his last day in civil service leave a message in the hearts of everyone which re-echoes the question of what we all will be remembered for when we complete our assignments here on earth.

## **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT KEY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - MINILS DG**

The Director-General/Chief Executive of Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies, (MINILS), Ilorin, Comrade Issa Aremu, mni, nPom has reiterated the importance of Women Empowerment in national development.

Aremu stated this while delivering his welcome remarks at the commemoration of MINILS 2024 International Women's Day (IWD) celebration in the institute recently.

Speaking on the global theme of the IWD; "Invest in women: accelerate progress" and MINILS' adopted theme; "Women Empowerment: Issues in Trade Unionism", the Director-General while noting that training women inevitably translates to training an entire nation, affirmed that women have been instrumental in the repositioning of the Institute over the years.

He added that his administration has recorded notable achievements because of the support and cooperation garnered from women in the Institute. He further emphasized the need for the continuous promotion of gender policies and inclusion noting that it should be a concerted effort by all departments to reflect gender participation in their programmes and academic courses.

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## MINILS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING ON ITS MANDATE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Management of Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), Ilorin says it remains committed to delivering on its mandate of training Nigerian workers to achieve industrial harmony for sustainable development.

The Director-General of the Institute, Comrade Issa Aremu made this pledge during the first edition of this year's quarterly staff briefing held at the Institute's auditorium on 12 February, 2024.

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In a keynote address, the Director of Social Protection Department (SPD) in the Institute, Mrs Olaide Ajiboye lauded the dynamism of the Director General in ensuring women in MINILS are recognized and encouraged, thus accelerating the progress and repositioning the Institute.

In her goodwill message, the Chairperson of the women committee of the National Labour Congress (NLC), Kwara State Chapter, Comrade Victoria Adeola Agboola appreciated the Director-General for his unwavering support and commitment to the women committee of the state and urged all women to speak out against issues affecting women in the society.

The event featured a round table discussion which spotlighted building solidarity across all sectors, women's empowerment, issues in trade unionism and supporting women's entrepreneurship and innovation.

Comrade Aremu, who disclosed that the Federal Government through its Ministry of Labour and Employment had given the Institute the task of training a minimum of 1250 workers for the year, said that the Institute under his administration will put proper machinery in place to ensure that it maintains its status as the leading labour Institute not only in the West African sub- region, but also in the world at large.

While warning that his administration will leave no room for indolence, lateness and other forms of indiscipline that are detrimental to the progress of the Institute, he charged the staff to be more diligent in the discharge of their duties.

He reiterated his unwavering commitment towards better welfare for the staff, adding that his administration will leave no stone unturned in its efforts towards providing a befitting environment that will make their job easier.

Earlier in his Introductory speech, the Director of Human Resources Management, Dr Danjuma Lawan, lauded the giant strides of the Aremu-led administration for providing alternative source of power to mitigate the challenges arising from irregular supply experienced in the Institute.

Other members of the management who spoke at the briefing reiterated the importance of synergy between the management and staff in achieving the mandate of the Institute and called for a concerted effort in ensuring it maintains its status as a world class labour institute.

### ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN MINILS

As part of the efforts of the Director-General/Chief Executive of MINILS, Comrade Issa Aremu, mni, npom to ensure adequate power supply for maximum, efficient and effective productivity in the Institute, the Aremu led Administration installed Solar Powered Energy in three different departments/buildings in the Institute with plans to extend this to other departments.

# PHOTOS SPEAK

## IWD



## MONTHLY FITNESS EXERCISE



## MINIMUM WAGE PUBLIC HEARING



THE DG DELIVERING HIS SPEECH



THE DG WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, WALE EDUN

## MINILS ELECTRIFICATION





# PHOTOS SPEAK

## NSITF VISIT



THE DG WITH THE NSITF TEAM



THE DG WITH THE BRANCH  
MANAGER, NSITF

## IN HOUSE UNION TRAINING



THE DG WITH MEMBERS OF  
MANAGEMENT AND SSA TO KWARA  
STATE GOVERNOR ON LABOUR



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS  
AT THE TRAINING

## NIPR ADVOCACY



NIPR TEAM WITH THE DG

## RETIREMENT



MRS. AFOLABI M.O

## MINILS TO PARTNER WITH NDLEA IN TACKLING DRUG ABUSE

The Director-General of Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), Comrade Issa Aremu, has said that the Institute will partner the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in tackling the abuse of drugs and other substances, just as it plans to expand its scope of labour education to include awareness about the dangers of drug abuse among the nation's workforce.

The heartwarming assurance was contained in a keynote address he delivered at the launch of two books on drug abuse written by the Kwara State Commandant of the National Drug Law Enforcement

Agency (NDLEA), CN Mohammed Bashir Ibrahim, on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 in Ilorin.

Mr Aremu identified drug abuse as not only a major cause of most criminal activities in the country such as kidnapping, but also a major challenge that slows down the country's development and called on parents, teachers, employers of labour and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the NDLEA in curbing the menace of drug trafficking and drug abuse in the country.

In his words, "Drugs are killing. It is time to open the debate whether we should return to capital punishment for drug peddlers or treat them with kid gloves."

Mr Aremu, maintained that "we should make our laws on drugs to be draconian or make stiffer penalties for those who peddle drugs and endanger the lives of Nigerians", adding that where there is no capital punishment for offenders, there should be maximum sentence for such persons.

He further called on the National Assembly to strengthen legislations on drug trafficking to include stiffer sanctions for offenders.

While noting that young people within the ages of 18 to 35, who constitute a critical part of the nation's population indulge in drug abuse due to unemployment, the Director-General tasked government at all levels to embark on massive job creation as well as policies that will encourage entrepreneurship as means of addressing unemployment in the country.

Aremu, who called for more funding for the NDLEA, further commended the author of the books titled "Drug Slaves" and "Look Before You Leap" for re-echoing the dangers of drug abuse.

## MINILS STAFF TASKED ON PRODUCTIVITY

Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies recently organised an induction programme for some newly recruited staff into various positions.

The Director-General/Chief Executive of the Institute, Comrade Issa Aremu, in his address at the opening session of the programme held last Friday, 19th January, 2024, charged the new staff to strive towards productivity and better results.

Aremu, who congratulated them on their new job, urged them to serve to the benefit of the Nigerian society.

He explained that the Institute's mandate is anchored on service delivery and further charged them on need to contribute meaningfully towards the actualization of its vision.

While expressing confidence that the newly employed staff will deploy their knowledge and skills for the progress of the Institute, he urged them to develop an attitude of professionalism in both their job and dressing to reflect the corporate environment of the Institute.

Earlier, the Director of Human Resources Management in the Institute, Dr. Danjuma Lawan, while welcoming the newly employed staff, charged them to take their duties seriously and avoid every act capable of undermining the rules guiding public service in Nigeria.