



***Petroleum & Natural Gas
Senior Staff Association of Nigeria
(PENGASSAN)***

...An affiliate of Trade Unions Congress of Nigeria (TUC)

President: COMRADE BABATUNDE OGUN
General Secretary: COMRADE BAYO OLOWOSHILE

Tel: +234(1) 2790715
Fax: 2790717
E-mail: admin@pengassan.org
admin1@pengassan.org
Website: <http://www.pengassan.org>

All Correspondence to:
General Secretary
U.M. OKORO HOUSE
288, Ikorodu Road, Anthony, Lagos.
P. O. Box 10433 Marina, Lagos.

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Oil workers threaten strike over contract labour, PIB next week

Just as the country is smarting out of low production after the amnesty by the Federal Government, oil workers have threatened to embark on various industrial actions to correct the injustice and abuse of contract labour by oil companies.

The workers said that both the upstream and the downstream of the oil and gas sector will be affected by the industrial action slated to paralyse the industry if an urgent step is not taking to address the issue.

They equally threatened to throw the industry into chaos if the National Assembly do not take their concerns into considerations before passing the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), calling on the legislative arm of government to assure them that their concerns will be taken care of.

Speaking in Lagos on Friday, the President of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), Comrade Babatunde Ogun, said the unions are ready to tackle any oil company either major or indigenious that indulge in the anti labour practice as from next week.

"We have penciled down those companies that are fond of this anti-labour practice for various industrial action as from next week," he said.



The companies that may be affected by actions include ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, Monipolo, Belbop/Conoil, among others.

According to Ogun, all the unions' efforts to engage the managements of these companies in social dialogue to resolve the issues have failed, as the managements did not respond to various correspondences that the unions have sent to them.

He said that since the managements have refused to open their doors to dialogue the unions have no other choice than to explore other options of dispute resolutions to save the jobs of their members. The union leader explained that the multinationals are retrenching the Nigerians contract workers and bringing in more foreigners in the name of expatriates, saying that most of the jobs that these so-called expatriates are doing were being done by Nigerians before they were disengaged.

He also alleged that indigenous companies were just disengaging the union members without adequate compensation for their services. Ogun said, "All strategies to dialogue with the managements have failed hence we will explore other alternative means of dispute resolution at this point to save the jobs of our members and ensure that they are adequately compensated for their employment. "We are querying the rationale by the multinationals for laying off Nigerian workers on flimsy excuses while the number of expatriates continues to swell by the day."

