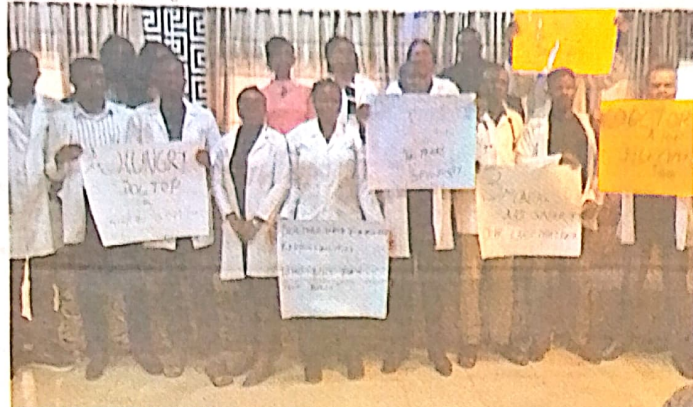


## Science & Health

### Disquiet at UNTH Enugu over casualisation, non-payment of doctors' salaries

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu



Members of the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu State Chapter, protesting over unpaid salaries

**T**HERE is disquiet at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Ituku-Ozalla, Enugu State, over unpaid salaries of resident doctors.

More than one week after the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) called off its national industrial action with members returning to work, their counterparts at the UNTH, Enugu, have refused to resume work.

In fact, less than 24 hours after the national strike was called off, members at UNTH, Enugu, convened an emergency congress and declared the continuation of the industrial action.

The doctors stated that they won't return to work until the management of the hospital paid outstanding arrears of salaries of their members employed under local arrangement (locum) as well as regularise the appointment of the affected doctors. *The Guardian* gathered that the affected medical doctors are being owed for two months in arrears.

It was revealed that perturbed by the shortage of medical manpower in 2021, management of the hospital decided to engage the over 160 medical doctors with a promise to regularise them to join the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) in six months.

These men and women have, however, been in practice in the last two years and not sure when their conversion would come. The development has currently grounded medical activities at the hospital as resident doctors under the aegis of Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), UNTH, Enugu Chapter, have down tools.

President of the Association, Dr. Chinazom Ekwueme, who bemoaned the predicament of her colleagues, stated that it was unacceptable and pitiable. She expressed worry over the prolonged locum tag on the over 160 resident doctors, urging the management to urgently resolve the issues.

She said: "Imagine as a doctor, you were employed and over two years you move from being a registrar, to being a senior registrar and on your way to becoming a consultant, yet you are still a contract staff, you are not entitled to anything, you are not entitled to Medical Residency Training Fund, you are not entitled to pension deductions. It is unacceptable that medical doctors will be casualised."

"The management keeps telling us there is an embargo on employment, that they can't get a waiver, but here in our South-East, we all know that other centres surrounding us have employed their own locum staff."

"So, we don't know why it has been an issue for the past two years. The last time UNTH employed was in 2021, since then, we have not gotten another employment; as at that 2021, we had locum doctors but they were not employed, instead, fresh people were employed."

"The affected doctors are borrowing from colleagues, from corps members who are doctors and all that. It is sad."

"We have the opportunity to join the 'japa syndrome' but we said no, yet we are being treated in this manner. It is very unacceptable. In UNTH, we are overburdened," she lamented.

When they addressed reporters a few days ago, one of the affected doctors, Dr. Nwosu Ivan, of the Surgery Department, had said that the suffering of their members was indescribable.

"The issue about owing locum doctors two months of salary in UNTH is very pathetic and I don't wish that to even my enemies. I want to call on all men of goodwill, our consultants, our CMD and concerned citizens to know that doctors in UNTH are really suffering."

"We know the price of fuel since fuel subsidy

was removed, we know the effect on our economy, our purse, the prices of goods have risen to high, the cost of medical treatment for doctors."

"You can imagine the effect on doctors who have not been paid their salary; many colleagues of ours have been trekking to work, that is a fact, because they have to park their vehicles; many of them take public transport whereby they spend thousands of naira each day and you see a lot of them showing signs of depression because of pressure from the society."

"Many of the locum doctors are sick but can't afford their hospital bills; these are professionals, these are civil servants, these are supposed to be the middle class of the society, but they can't afford basic necessities because they are being owed."

"The work pressure is much on the doctors; one person will run a whole clinic or a whole department for three months, which means being on call for 90 days and these people are meant to do this on empty stomach, they come to work, no food, no money to buy food."

"Doctors are now patronising loan apps to feed their families, it is very shameful. These workers have committed no crime; their mates are abroad but they decided to stay back; we are not asking for much; salary is basic," Nwosu stated.

Her counterpart, Dr. Christian Omeje of Department of Child Dental Health, said it was heartrending that for the past two years, they have remained as locum resident doctors.

"When we came into the programme, we thought that this locum nomenclature would be erased from our appointment letters within two to three or highest six months, and that we will become permanent staff."

"Since I entered into the medical programme I never heard of locum residency. Residency is a time-bound programme, so adding locum to it is making it worse."

"It has been of serious psychological effect on us, answering that word locum has really dampened our spirit and it has affected us. We are also working as doctors and this situation is affecting the quality of attention we give to our patients", he stated.

Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Prof. Obinna Onodugo, however, insisted that the doctors have not been regularized because the embargo on employment had not been lifted, even as he blamed the federal government for their inability to receive their pay.

"The option is for them to wait for FG to grant us the waiver we have since requested, for them to be made permanent staff. It's not me that will grant them a waiver, neither do I have the right to do so without the mandate from those that gave me a job to do for them."

"We have been to Abuja severally to the relevant agencies handling these matters. I have offered to take some of the Resident Doctors to Abuja to go and see for themselves, but they turned it down. What else am I supposed to do?", Onodugo queried. Onodugo, who agreed that the situation of the hospital was affecting the smooth running of the hospital, stated that efforts have been intensified to address their issues.

**BRISCOE**

R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC  
(IN RECEIVERSHIP)  
REG. 0102

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC (IN RECEIVERSHIP) will be held at 18, FATALATERE WAY, MATOBI, LAGOS STATE on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 11.00A.M. for the transaction of the following business:

#### ORDINARY BUSINESS

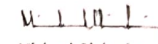
1. To lay before the meeting, the financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2022 and the Reports of the Directors, Auditors and Audit Committee thereon
2. To re-elect Directors
3. To elect members of the Audit Committee
4. To disclose the compensation of the Managers of the company.

#### SPECIAL BUSINESS

5. To appoint Messrs. Crowe Dalinore as the External Auditors of the Company
6. To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
7. To fix the remuneration of the Directors
8. To authorize the company to procure goods and services necessary for its operations from related companies.
9. To cancel the unissued shares of the company in compliance with the legal requirement of Issued Share Capital under the CAMA 2020 and The Companies Regulations 2021.

Lagos, Nigeria.  
June 8, 2023.

By Order of the Board

  
Michael Olabode  
[FRC/2022/PRO/NBA/002/23356]

#### Financial Statements

The Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2022 and list of unclaimed dividends are available at our website at [www.rtbliscoe.com](http://www.rtbliscoe.com) as well as at the website of our Registrars at [www.meristemregistrars.com](http://www.meristemregistrars.com). Hard copies would be provided on request.

#### Proxies

A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him/her. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. To be valid for the meeting, executed proxy forms should be deposited at either the registered office of the Company at 18, Fatalatere way, Matobi, Lagos or the office of the Registrars at 213, Herbert Macaulay Way, Adekunle, Lagos, not less than 48 hours before the time of holding the meeting. The Company has made arrangements at its own cost for stamp duties to be paid on the proxy forms.

#### Audit Committee

Any shareholder may nominate another shareholder through his/her proxy as a member of the Audit Committee by giving notice in writing of such nomination to the Company Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. This should be forwarded to [briscoemail.com](mailto:briscoemail.com).

#### Closure of Register

The Register of members will be closed from Monday August 14, 2023 to Friday, August 18, 2023 both dates inclusive.

#### Right of Shareholders to ask Questions

Shareholders have a right to ask questions not only at the meeting but also in writing prior to the meeting. Such questions must be submitted to the Company or the Registrars on or before the 24th of August, 2023 at [briscoemail.com](mailto:briscoemail.com) or [meristemregistrars.com](http://meristemregistrars.com).

### Summary of Audited Financial Results

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 N'000	Re-stated 2021 N'000	Variance %
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>17,883,014</b>	<b>11,898,697</b>	<b>50%</b>
Operating Profit before Interest & Tax	1,084,552	388,932	179%
Net Finance costs	(838,672)	(1,124,232)	-25%
<b>Profit/(loss) before taxation</b>	<b>245,880</b>	<b>(735,300)</b>	<b>-133%</b>
Taxation	(122,526)	(31,129)	294%
<b>Profit/(loss) after taxation</b>	<b>123,354</b>	<b>(766,429)</b>	<b>-116%</b>
Other comprehensive income net of tax	(11,880)	(3,858)	205%
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year after tax</b>	<b>111,474</b>	<b>(770,287)</b>	<b>-114%</b>
Share Capital	588,177	588,177	0%
Total Equity	(7,995,550)	(8,107,024)	-1%

**Per 50k Share Data:**  
Based on 1,176,352,056  
(2021-1,176,352,056)

**Ordinary shares of 50k each:**

Basic Profit/(loss) Per Share (Naira)	0.10	(0.65)
Diluted Profit/(loss) Per Share (Naira)	0.10	(0.65)
Net Liabilities (Naira)	(6.80)	(6.89)
Dividend declared	-	-
Dividend cover (times)	-	-
Stock Exchange quotation at year end (kobo)	26	20
Number of employees (group)	212	206

[www.rtbliscoe.com](http://www.rtbliscoe.com)