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E D I TOO R I A L..

FIVE YEARS OF NLC - UNITY AND STRUGGLE.

This month, February, is very significant in the history of Labour movement in Nigeria. It is significant because it is the month when just some five years ago, Nigerian Workers achieved a historic unity by forming the Nigerian Labour Congress, which today is the only Labour Centre in the country. In effect therefore, congress is now Five Years Old.

In this respect, FORWARD will try to examine some of the achievements of the NLC. More importantly, we shall also attempt to point out the problems that the NLC, as a body, had encountered and is still encountering in order to find out solutions to these problems. We also hope to provide some meaningful suggestions that we feel will assist the congress in tackling problems and in exerting its influence among the rank and file workers and in the National body politics. In short, this editorial is on NLC in retrospect.

Firstly, it must be pointed out here, that the most important achievement of Congress is the indivisible Unity of the Nigerian workers, of which the NLC is today a shining symbol. It is also to the credit of Congress that MAY DAY is today being observed as a national holiday all over the country. Again everybody knows also that despite reactionary blackmail and false propaganda by the ruling class, the battle for minimum wage had been won by the Nigerian workers under the laedership of the NLC. It goes without saying that the tremendous upsurge in workers activities is connected with the fact that congress has tried to encourage workers Educational Programme, although this needs to be more intensive. More than ever before, Nigerian workers have acquired basic education in industrial relation and Trade Unionism. If we mention the reputation and the prestige of the NLC at the National, Continental and International scales, all of which were built in five years, then the achievements become incontestable.. We must add, however, that all these achievements were not won without struggle. The defeat suffered by the enemies of Nigerian workers (who do not want to see us strong and united), did not, unfortunately, lead to their total elimination. Instead, these our national and foreign enemies continue to sabotage our Unity and frustrate our progress. It is either they use tribal and ethnic differences to weaken and divide us, or they introduce political gimmics to achieve the same condemnable purpose. More often, when they find all these their tricks rejected by workers, they try to blackmail our leaders and our organisation by resorting to one falsehood or the other.

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