

THE GAMBIA TEACHERS UNION

MID-TERM REVIEW DELEGATES CONGRESS

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT BY YAHYA M. JALLOW

INTRODUCTION

My fellow Congress delegates, staff, observers, and all other protocols respectively observed. I thank God for giving us life and good health to witness yet another Mid Term Review Delegates Congress. This is important because we looked forward to this day and yet still, some of our esteemed colleagues answered to the call of our Creator. I pray that their souls rest in perfect peace and that God spare us to witness the 2019 Congress. Amen.

In this report, I will present to you the true state of our finances for the period, January 2015 to 31st December 2016 as required by our rules. As your representatives, we are not only morally obliged but mandated to account for every resources, be it material, human or financial, entrusted with us.

At the 2014 Delegates Congress total expenditure was reported to be D1, 862,252, 00 and it is in the light of the above that this report is being presented to this august gathering.

Balance Sheet

Mr Chairman the GTU Balance Sheet for the year 2016 showed a net asset of D4, 321,218 while in 2015 it stood at D6, 161,308. The rapid decrease was as a result of the civil work on the landscaping of the GTU Grounds project that you mandated us to implement with the sum of D1,349,820.00 you initially contributed from in March to December 2013. Also, there was increase in both the Administrative and Operating cost in 2016 as a direct result of the decentralization of some of the activities eg. 2016 WTD and the series of engagements with the SRs during our membership education programmes held in all the Regions to inform members on policies and other issues of interest.

Under our current liabilities, an amount of D325,307.00 is a loan contracted from the GTUCCU to support the GTU to rehabilitate the structures at the Secretariat. This decision was necessary because the earlier plan of dealing with a commercial funding agency was seen to be very risky.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Mr. Chairman, Membership Dues and Agency Fees for the year ending 2016 amounted to D4,874,724.00 while in 2015 the total Membership Dues stood at D5,025,764. These figures translate into 8125 and 8376 members for 2016 and 2015 respectively. A drop of 251 members was registered due to the fact that the system at the Directorate of Treasury omitted some names which happen time and again. However, with vigorous efforts and dedication, there has been marked improvement on the current membership roll and I will report on that accordingly in 2019, by the Grace of God.

Despite the gains, we still have a lot of teachers and education workers out there who do not belong to any credible organisation.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the effects of the global recession still lives with us. Our traditional partners have virtually winded up and have since shifted emphasis to institutional support rather than liquid cash disbursements. But with two new partners on board, the Revenue received through Support Grants has increase

from D2,404,445 in 2015 to D 2,650,940.00 in 2016. What is looming in the distance, fellow comrades, calls for concerted efforts to device means of increasing our revenue base for sustained growth and development.

Mr. Chairman, the nature and context of a Review Delegates Congress dictates that we seriously take stock of our business with more focus on our weaknesses and threats. Our achievements and successes gained are visible and I think I do not need to waste your time on that. I vowed to change the organisational culture of the Union and as such we have succeeded greatly in achieving the targets that we set for ourselves.

Relatively, you will agree with me that there is still much that needs to be done and now! Certainly, there is no serious threat than a weak financial background that an organisation like ours can take a chance for.

Expense on Administrative Cost has increased from D1,771,262.00 in 2015 to D2,835,724.00 in 2016 representing 60% due to increase in

our programmes and activities coupled with a consolidated staff strength at the Secretariat.

Expenses on Postage and Stationery has increased to D55,440 in 2016 owing to the increase in the need for stationery for both programmatic work and administration.

Evidently, Operational Cost has increased from D3,076,110,00 in 2015 to D4,027,349.00 in 2016. This sharp increase is based on the fact that researches were conducted on the Grade composition and school categorization which we were convinced was a felt need for more promotion of teachers. The President's Meet the Teachers Tours, cost on visiting SUDES delegates and maintenance on the GTU premises account for the total cost mentioned above. Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that without prudent and sound financial and operational policies, it would have been hard to achieve this much.

I think it will be fair enough to catalogue the list below in show of appreciation of our genuine partners who provided financial support to the Union during the period under review:

- The Irish National Union of Teachers (INTO)
- Education International (EI)
- Lararförbundet – Swedish Teachers Organisation
- Action Aid International The Gambia (AAITG)
- Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE)
- GTUCCU

In the case of GTUCCU Board and Management, we are very grateful for the Sage Accounting Package donated to the Accounts Department of the GTU Secretariat and the D3.5 Million Interest Free Loan given to enable GTU Rehabilitate its Structures at the Secretariat on the MDI Road, Kanifing as earlier mentioned.

These great institutions and organisations contributed a total sum of D2,404,445 and D2,650,940.00 in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

During the year under review, Overseas Travel, has reduced to D345,890.00 compared to D536,447 in the year 2016 and 2015 respectively representing 55% reduction. Our development partners have so far been footing the bill on the major travel items such as cost for air ticket, accommodation and feeding.

Payments of Death benefits have also increased from D39,000.00 in 2015 to D66, 500.00 in 2016 respectively representing an increase of about 71%. I regret to inform you that a total sum of D105,500.00 representing 58 souls was disbursed just within a period of two years. (including that of former General Secretary – Late M D Tamsir Jallow).

Fixed Assets expenditure has reduced because the only expenses incurred was the purchase of the General Secretary's executive chair during the period under review.

OTHER SERVICES

Mr. Chairman, with the development of our strategic plan, the focus of the Executive and the Secretariat was sharpened. My committee

will not hesitate to commit funds to any genuine venture geared towards improving the lot of our members. In unity lies our strength and as such, I would like to implore all members and representatives, both at regional and national levels to continue cherishing the principles and ideals of our union. With our values of responsiveness, respectfulness, integrity and accountability, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Until we meet in August 2019, were the technical details of our income and expenditure will be shared, discussed and acted upon, I thank you and God for your kind attention. I hope I have done my best. Please excuse me for any errors should in case my performance fell below your expectations.

I thank you all. Solidarity forever!