



5th May 2021

The Secretary

Socialist Workers and Youth League (SWL)

Dear Comrade,

ASCAB RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM SWL

We are in receipt of your communication to ASCAB and note the issues of concern that you raise.

We are deeply appreciative of your membership of ASCAB, and of all the efforts you have made, and continue to make towards the realisation of the goals and ultimate program of the Alliance.

We appreciate your concerns about deepening democratization of ASCAB, and together we shall all continue to pursue all relevant and politically strategic actions towards the process of deepening democratic participation in the Alliance.

However, we wish to refute in no uncertain terms some of the assertions you have made.

First, we reject the notion that the Alliance has not been democratic and that there is thus the urgent need to democratize it. It is one thing to call for deepening of democratization, it is another to call for democratizing the Alliance.

If ASCAB had not been democratic, in its work and actions since its foundations, how come, the Alliance has grown to include more organisations beyond its founding members? How come, the Alliance has been able to take collective decisions to engage with the working peoples of Nigeria, intervening



in their struggles, and holding consultations and public meetings with them and on national issues.

If the Alliance has not been democratic, how come, for example, it was able to work with other left political initiatives in an open and inclusive planning process towards the successful convening of The Peoples Alternative Political Summit [TPAPS] which gave birth to The Peoples Alternative Political Movement (TPAP-Movement)?

We also wish to categorically reject the notion of ASCAB being dominated by one single organisation. The organisation you alleged (the Socialist Labour, SL) was not a founding organisation as it had perhaps not been formed at the birth of ASCAB. Every affiliate of the Alliance has had equal opportunities to participate in its work and to lead the work of ASCAB nationally and across the states in the country where branches have been formed. If SWL and/or any other organisations is/are able to form State Chapters of ASCAB, the Leader of such State Chapter would be represented on the CC but not as representatives of their ideological organisations but as representatives of the State Chapters.

Furthermore, on the question of representation on the Coordinating Committee [CC] of the Alliance, we were clear from the inception of ASCAB that, though political in nature, though radical and socially transformative in its aims and politics, it is nevertheless, not a tendential Alliance, nor an Alliance based directly on only socialist tendencies and their direct organisational platforms.

That is why no socialist platform is directly represented on the CC, although several members of the CC are also members of different socialist organisations, including SWL. Members of the interim CC are chosen in terms of their significant representation of important interest groups, for example trade unions, and in an attempt to provide wider representation of the different geo-political zones.

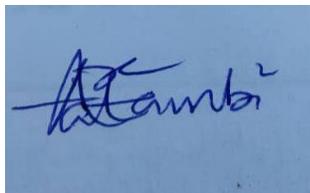


We were clear that we were determined to avoid being trapped, and paralysed in the vortex of puerile sectarian squabbles. And for this we owe no one any apologies. It is our conscious and deliberate choice of how we want to organise.

Those who agree with us are welcomed to be a part of us, those who do not are welcomed not to join with us, or to leave us at any time. But we shall not allow ourselves to be bogged down by needless and unproductive political fights. An alliance is a voluntary arrangement between organisations to work together and to coordinate their work. It is not a compulsion on either side.

In conclusion, we commit ourselves to working together with all member organisations to advance the work of the alliance, and improve its organisation, and decision making and implementation processes, based on the collectively worked out rules and regulations.

In Solidarity,



Atambi Ade

Interim National Secretary, ASCAB