Teachers On Strike





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SUMMARY OF TEACHERS ON STRIKE

The raucous noise of the school environment, the sombre look of the students in a classroom situation, the obnoxiously cheerful mode of the school... All these were a mirage now... A dream... An unrealistic flash of fantasy. There are no more school to go to... No... No more students to teach. The school are closed. The teachers are on strike!...

These were the thought of Emeka Nebedum in Teachers On Strike WHY! Does he have these thought on his mind?

CHAPTER ONE

Chukwuemeka Nebedum a well seasoned teacher of English Language took off for his 'nighty' which has become a daily routine for him since the 'sit down' commenced. He goes for this daily night walk balance to sanity within him.

The 'sit down' was supposed to be a three month strike which aim was to plea for the payment of the teachers salaries. They had hoped for a peaceful dialogue with His Excellency popularly known as H.E. but their plea was to no avail instead H.E. had bluntly told them to move from a 'sit down' strike to a 'lie down' and this made matter worse.

It was almost mid night when Nebe was returning home from his 'nighty' lost in his thought of agony. When two female presence caught his attention. They were whore! Trying to solicit his clientele, deliberately bushing him. He wanted to protest against their attitude when he suddenly recognized one of them 'Adora' the only daughter of his bosom friend Mr. Dife had become a whore!... Trying to catch up with her and her partner he fell and loosed the sole of one of his shoe... facing another scene of robbers on his way home added to his sorrow then coming upon an hilarious situation that terrified him and almost made him jump over a fence into a neighbor compound realizing it was his friend Mr. Dife who meant no harm but only came looking for him because of an emergency meeting of the union since he was the chairman.

CHAPTER ONE AND TWO

But before going for the meeting he had to go home to get well dress because he got his trousers torn when trying to jump over the fence and had also loosed a shoe sole when trying to catch Adora. On getting home he made explanations on how he loosed the sole of his shoe and this got Mr. Dife thinking because Nebe explanation was tarnishing his image and that of his daughter also explained how he got his trousers torn to his wife Rita who really got mad at him because she doesn't buy the of his 'nighty' and had termed it 'bad habit'.

At the meeting everyone of the teachers had STRESS written over them. It was the eighth month of nonpayment of teacher salaries and fifth month of the strike and this has caused indescribable hunger to the teachers and their families, leading to the death of Comrade Omenna's children, the admission Comrade Irukwe's wife into the hospital, teachers becoming debtors, students roaming about the street, girls becoming prostitute, boys taking into robbery... "Posterity" Nebe common Slang was being murdered! The teachers deliberated on the possibility of Calling off the strike but decided to involve the stakeholder of the community: the church, the traditional rulers, the parent and teachers association to intervene in the situation on ground. This suggestion made by Dife was vetoed by all present before closing the meeting Ukweze's wife brought in an envelope with the logo of the Province Government.

CHAPTER TWO AND THREE

The content of the letter which was from His Excellency nullified their initial agreement to bring in some stakeholders in the society. They would first dialogue with His Excellency. The outcome of the deliberation would determine their next course of action.

Nebe and nine other executives went for the meeting with the governor. During the meeting, H.E. considered the pale proud faces before him like someone looking at the dead body of a dog. He had taught he could get even with the teachers and make them end the strike. He threatened sack them if they wouldn't comply to his idea of calling off the strike without paying the teachers salary. During H.E. threatening Nebe polluted the air which irritated him so much that he had to run to the restroom without courtesy and this made the teachers happy but didn't change their stony facial expression. After H.E. returned from the restroom he offered them the sum of two hundred thousand naira each, they gave no respond, later increased it four hundred thousand naira each still there was no respond then finally one million naira each which they refused too. At this point Nebe stood up and told H.E. that their salaries was not a privilege but a right... he walked out of the governor's office then was followed by his co-comrade.

On their way the teachers had found time to laugh over the reaction of H.E. to the polluted air during the meeting and they had refuse to curtail the moment of amusement in their miserable suituation

CHAPTER FOUR

Nebe and Dife were on their way to visit the Financial secretary Miss Philo Ibezimako alias Philobez a fellow teacher and a maternal cousin of Nebe. Who was having problem with her landlord. Philo was the one who did the matchmaking of Rita and Nebe. But she on the other hand has refuse to marry. She always turn down men proposals for one reason or the other. Quite of recent did Philo begin to realize the bad aspect of being single.

Philo's landlord picked a amorous interest in her and began to pester her with nauseating lustful overtures. And she had reported to Nebe.

The landlord had been so desperate as to offer her the accommodation for free if she could yield to his advance. Her refusal had offended the landlord so he had threatening to send her packing but he could because she had paid for six extra month then. But now her due had expire and the landlord had capitalized on this fact knowing that teachers were not being paid their salaries then he had resume his lustful advances. Because of her integrity and moral of standard she still refused the landlord's offer this made the landlord give her three days to make up her mind. "To be or not to be his mistress"

On getting to Philo's apartment they were devastated by what they saw. All her luggage's had been thrown out on the stress by the landlord through the help of some thugs who were once student.

The on-lookers and the neighbor help gather Philo's luggage's togethers, one of them even offered her lockup store and her things were secured in there. She then followed Nebe home to have shelter over her head again

CHAPTER FIVE AND SIX

When Philo got home with Nebe, Philo narrated her plight over their scanty meal. How she had successfully thrown the landlord out of her room when he came luring her for sex and her blunt refusal vexed him that he had brought in thugs the next day to throw her out of the house even after he had earlier given her three days to make up her mind for him or not. Rita felt so sorry for Philo that she suggested that the case should be reported to the police forgetting the fact that without out money it was a useless idea. This situation brought the high spirited Philo down and pity surged through him.

Philo blended well with the family this made her realize how lonely she had been all the while she lived alone. During Philo's stay in Nebe house the cultivated the habit of conversing or arguing with Nebe neighbor Chike who was a bachelor and lived alone with his dog. And they became very close friends.

On a sunny morning Philo had dashed out of the house for the market. She was waiting when a frenzied conductor burst out of the town service bus, dragging a man down with him. The conductor was almost hitting the man when Philo intervened and stopped him from hitting the man. Philo recognized the man Irukwe and asked him to explain his reason for not paying his fare. Irukwe explained in tears that he had lost his wife Nkiru some five minute ago at the general hospital. He had walked out of the hospital in a daze entered a bus without realizing it. At the breaking of the news people around him felt pity for him some wanted to pay his fare but the conductor refused on hearing his plight.

CHAPTER SIX AND SEVEN

The bus driver recognized Philo's voice alighted from the bus removed his hat and Philo recognized him too Teacher Ejike. A senior teacher, the last person Philo could ever imagine to see as a town service bus driver.

Ejike had to discharge the passengers the was carrying And they all went back to the hospital to make necessary arrangement on our the body would be transported to the mortuary. Ejike paid the bills as Irukwe cried and watched how is dead pregnant wife was being carried away. Ejike and Philo shed not just because of the death of Nkiru but for the trauma of the entire teacher who now lived in abject poverty and misery

When Philo got home it was evening, the Nebe's were already worried. She broke the news about the death of Irukwe wife to them and they all became more devastated.

Irukwe a trustworthy man he had the union money in his care but never thought of even borrowing it to save his wife.

All these were happening due to the fact that the people in power have decided to withhold their salaries and not caring about what the society was turning into. Not even batting an eye lid on what the youth are turning into. All the governor care was their own self interest and purpose. T Wanting to use their salaries to invest into his election campaigns for a second tenure.

OTHER CHAPTERS

So many other terrible things that were better heard than experienced also happened. Dife family wasn't left behind in the calamity as his daughter Adora got pregnant during this mishap caused by the government. But in life we have the up's and the down's...

A long time missing Joy and happiness overwhelmed the teachers when His Excellency H.E. as he was popularly known, the Provincial Governor of Umma Province and his Deputy were impeached by the house of assembly for gross mismanagement of public funds, corrupt practices and unethical behaviors.

Now the strikes were over
Salaries will be paid
Posterity Will be alive again.
Shouts greeted Nebe as he stepped into the school compound.

"Teach them", they chorused "For Posterity", Nebe beamed with Smiles.