

**TRADE DISPUTES (ESSENTIAL SERVICES)
(AMENDMENT) DECREE 1977**



Decree No. 69

[25th November 1977]

Commence-
ment.

THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT hereby decrees as follows :—

1. The Trade Disputes (Essential Services) Decree 1976 is hereby amended by the insertion immediately after section 1 thereof of the following new section 1A, that is :— Amendment
of 1976 No.
23.

“Penalties for acts calculated to disrupt the economy. 1A.—(1) Any employer or any official of an association of employers or any official of a trade union or any person, not being an official of a trade union, who in any way performs or assumes a leadership role in any such trade union or faction thereof and—

(a) who is or has been engaged in acts calculated to disrupt the economy or acts calculated to obstruct or disrupt the smooth running of any essential service ; or

(b) has, where applicable, wilfully failed to comply with the procedure specified in the Trade Disputes Decree 1976 in relation to the reporting and settlement of trade disputes,

shall be guilty of an offence under this Decree.

(2) Any person found guilty of an offence under subsection (1) of this section shall on conviction—

(a) where such person is an employer or official thereof or an official of any association of employers, be liable to a fine of ₦10,000 ;

(b) where such person is an official of a trade union or, not being an official of a trade union, is a person who in any way performs or assumes a leadership role in any such trade union or faction thereof, be liable to a fine of ₦200 or to imprisonment for six months or to both such fine and imprisonment ;

and in addition to the foregoing penalties, any such person shall not, at any time after conviction for an offence under this section, continue to be or become a member, or as the case may be continue to be or become an official, of any association or continue to be or become an official of any trade union (including any faction thereof) any of the members of which such association or trade union are employed in essential services.

(3) For the purposes of this Decree, a person shall be taken as performing or assuming a leadership role in a trade union or faction thereof if it is proved that, at the material time or during the material period, he had performed functions or assumed duties which are normally within the competence of an official of a trade union or purported so to do.

(4) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, references—

(a) to employer include references to any director, manager, secretary or other similar official thereof or any person purporting to act in any such capacity ; and

(b) to trade union or faction thereof include references to any group of workers associated for a common purpose."

Citation.

2. This Decree may be cited as the Trade Disputes (Essential Services) (Amendment) Decree 1977.

MADE at Lagos this 25th day of November 1977.

LT-GENERAL O. OBASANJO,
*Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note does not form part of the above Decree
but is intended to explain its effect)*

The Decree amends the Trade Disputes (Essential Services) Decree 1976 and, amongst other things, provides for the punishment of employers, officials of any association of employers, officials of trade unions and certain other individuals whose acts are calculated to disrupt the economy or the smooth running of any essential service.