

S.I. 37 of 1984

TRIBUNALS OF INQUIRY-1966

(1966 No. 41)

Instrument constituting the Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the Affairs of the Federal Polytechnic, Idah

Under the powers conferred upon me by section 1 of the Tribunals of Inquiry Act 1966, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, Muhammadu Buhari, Head of the Federal Military Government, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, hereby constitute and appoint a tribunal to be called the Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the Affairs of the Federal Polytechnic, Idah with the terms of reference hereinafter appearing :—

AND for this purpose I appoint—

Mr Justice C. O. Segun,

Mr Abdullahi Mahmud,

Alhaji Suleiman Bamidele Aiyeloso.

to be members of the tribunal with full powers and authority to hold public hearing, but without prejudice to the exercise of the power conferred under the proviso to section 1 (2) (d) of the said Act :

AND I direct that Mr C. O. Segun, aforesaid shall be the Chairman and I appoint Mr D. O. Eneanya to be Secretary to the Tribunal.

AND I further direct that any two members of the tribunal, of whom one shall be the Chairman shall constitute a quorum and that the tribunal shall hold its first meeting as soon as may be after the date of this Instrument, and the tribunal shall thereafter hold the said inquiry in Idah or at such place or places within Nigeria and upon such dates as the Chairman may determine.

Terms of Reference

2. The tribunal shall with all convenient speed investigate and ascertain the immediate and the remote causes of all the fire disasters in the institution and especially the destruction of the equipment stored in the warehouse, the fire in the Secretariat Studies Block and the fire in the Records Office with a view to :—

- (a) ascertain the extent and cost of damage ;
- (b) determine whether the management has put in efforts to discover the causes and introduces measures to prevent recurrence ;
- (c) identify any persons or groups of persons responsible for any of the wrong-doings and suggest what punishment or punishments should be meted out to them ;
- (d) recommend measures within and beyond the fire, aimed at preventing similar occurrence in the future.

3. Inquire into the management of the Polytechnic in general with a view of awarding proper, fair and just claims where necessary and making recommendations for improvement with particular reference to :—

(a) the financial management of the institution, including the award of contracts and payments to contractors, peoples or companies who rendered services ;

(b) the physical structures of the Polytechnic, including rented property and their suitability and cost as well as the reason for the undue delay in the development of the permanent site ;

(c) the admission policies of the Polytechnic vis-a-vis the prevailing Ministry's directives on the admission of students into Federal institutions ;

(d) the staffing policies and methods of recruitment, vis-a-vis the directives of the Federal Civil Service Commission ;

(e) the promotion and staff development policies of the Polytechnic and the specific cases of Messrs E. O. Ezeugwu, Y. M. Awodi and I. E. O. Salawu ;

(f) the relationship between the Polytechnic and the Idah Community, especially in relation to the land acquired by the institution.

4. Examine the following petitions and investigate valid issues raised thereto with a view to apportion blame where necessary and make appropriate recommendations including disciplinary action on any of the staff of the institution or any other parties involved in the affairs of the institution :—

(a) "Unusual Silence on the fire disaster at Federal Polytechnic, Idah" dated 13th February, 1984 by Mr Y. M. Awodi ; Chief Engineer, Federal Polytechnic, Idah ;

(b) "Thoughts on Federal Polytechnic, Idah" dated 9th December, 1983 by Mr Y. M. Awodi, Chief Engineer, Federal Polytechnic, Idah ;

(c) "Most Recent Developments at Federal Polytechnic, Idah" dated 21st February, 1984 by Mr Y. M. Awodi, Chief Engineer, Federal Polytechnic, Idah ;

(d) "The Deplorable Management of the Federal Polytechnic, Idah" dated January 19th, 1984 by Mr I. E. O. Salawu, Acting Head, Department of Science and Technology, Federal Polytechnic, Idah ;

(e) "The fire Incident at the Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Benue State, Damage Approximately ₦5 million" dated 5th March, 1984 by Dr P. H. O. Amodu and J. S. Idakwoji ;

(f) "Land Acquisition" dated 8th March, 1984 by Mr I. I. A. Achoba copying a letter to the Rector titled "Federal Polytechnic, Idah Farm, Land Acquisition in Ibaji—Disaster Imminent dated 9th January, 1984 by Mr J. O. Ojonuba and I. I. A. Achoba of Ichala—Ibaji, c/o P.O. Box 110, Idah.

5. Make any other recommendations regarding the improvement of the management or policies of the institution.

6. I hereby require the tribunal to submit its report to me not later than 30 days from the date of its first sitting.

GIVEN AND ISSUED under my hand at Lagos this 24th day of August, 1984.

MAJOR-GENERAL M. BUHARI,
Head of the Federal Military Government,
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces,
Federal Republic of Nigeria