

**Opening Address by ACIS Central Coordinator – Comrade Abiola Dabiri to the *National Students’ Retreat organised by Centre for Popular Education [CEPED] & Amilcar Cabral Ideological School [ACIS] held in BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO (BUK), Old Campus, Kofar Kabuga, Kano on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015***

**On** behalf of ACIS & CEPED, we salute all students, activists, lecturers, the media and other participants to share this historic moment with us.

**This** is the second major test we are having in collaboration with the CEPED. Both organisations are affiliate members of the Joint Action Front (JAF). While CEPED is a platform of ASUU, ACIS, which marked its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary precisely on July 16, 2015 is an essential part of our core movement – the ACIS-M. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015, ACIS and CEPED jointly initiated the MASS RALLY under the platform of the Nigerian Movement in Solidarity for the Liberation of Western Sahara – the last colony in Africa.

The protest which took place in attendance enjoyed the active collaboration of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the mass of students from the University of Abuja and Nassarawa State University. The protest no doubt marked a new phase in the history of struggle by popular forces against imperialism in our country. Struggle against imperialism was nothing new to the principles and traditions of the past glorious era of the Nigerian student’s movement but such resistance has ceased to hold since the mid-90s with the ascendancy of neo-liberal political and socio-economic order and its dominance of our national psychology. This first joint effort was significant in working towards a framework of collaboration between CEPED and ACIS.

**Furtherance** to the 1<sup>st</sup> major joint effort, is the stride we are taking today in bringing the students across the country together on a clear and principled agenda of reviving the

students' movement, which without doubt, requires rebuilding and re-direction as a major segment of the population that should play a major role in the TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF NIGERIA and AFRICA from neo-colonialism and the extant capitalist neo-liberal dominance of the lives of the majority exploited and oppressed masses in our country.

**As** a step, we have chosen the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the painful exit of Comrade Chima Ubani to commit to the memory of successive generations of the Nigerian students and youth the exemplary qualities of Chima Ubani, we recall that Comrade Chima Ubani died in an auto crash alongside the Vanguard Newspaper photo journalist – Comrade Tunji Oyeleru in Potiskum on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005 on their way from Maiduguri to Abuja, after the Protest Rally organised by the Labour and Civil Society Coalition against the then perennial hike in the prices of petroleum products.

**We** in ACIS, in particular, chose to immortalise Comrade Chima Ubani because his ideas, his selflessness, his sacrifices, his consistency, his ideological clarity and commitment to working class cause and liberation struggle, his sense of duty and supreme sacrifices are eternal and are consistent with the strategic goal of ACIS-M; struggle to build a new and just humanity on the basis of socialist transformation of our society (Nigeria, Africa and the World). If we look at the state of our students and youth today and think about who they should be, we will say they should be like Comrade Chima. We will say they should be guided by Comrade Chima's examples because in Comrade Chima and other genuine comrades like him lies a future of freedom and human development for our country, Africa and the World.