

A Case Study of the National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria

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Abstract

The study discusses the transformation of the National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN) in an era of declining membership utilizing the power resources model. Union membership among factory workers had declined from around 60,000 in 2000 to less than 20,000 in 2016. The decline in membership means a fall in the structural power which had defined the union in terms of its vibrancy and strength in collective bargaining and visibility in the Nigeria labour movement since inception in 1978. The study shows that the union has tried to regain strength and vibrancy through different phases of challenge in the industry by building capacities to expand associational and societal powers through organizing of self-employed tailors and campaigns and advocacy for the revival of textile factories. Organizing strategies for self-employed tailors have promoted a transition from manifest to active membership and integration into the union. In particular, the union endeavors to consider the peculiar needs of the self-employed tailors for protection, access to credit, as well as capacity and skill development. To sustain and deepen this process, it is important that union education and training strategies must address both the soft and hard skills requirement of the self-employed tailors.

Full text (PDF): A Case Study of the National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria ,by Ismail Bello
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