



ICPC Recovered Over N20 Billion from Ghost Workers' Pensions in 2024 – ICPC Chairman

By Khadijah Aminu-Ibrahim



The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has revealed that the Commission recovered over N20 billion siphoned through fraudulent ghost workers' pension schemes in 2024.

Dr. Aliyu explained that the ICPC uncovered the fraudulent insertion of workers in some Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) as part of its preventive activities.

The ICPC Chairman made this disclosure during the "Editors' Breakfast Meeting with ICPC Chairman," an interactive session organised by the ICPC for media executives, in Abuja.

He emphasised that the fight against

corruption cannot be waged by anti-graft agencies alone, stressing the need

for collective efforts to drive national progress. Highlights of the Chairman's briefing include, but are not limited to, the following areas.

Commitment to Due Process and the Rule of Law

According to Dr. Aliyu, the ICPC has adopted a strategic communication approach in line with the 1999 Constitution and the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act. This ensures that while the Commission remains strict and diligent in its operations, it upholds the rule of law and human dignity.

"Over the years, ICPC has followed a communication strategy guided by Section 36 and Section 27(4) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000. These legal provisions safeguard suspects' rights. While we remain firm and meticulous in our duties, we are

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Bauchi State Security Votes: Court Dismisses Application for an Order of Perpetual Injunction against ICPC

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

Bauchi State High Court has dismissed an application for an order of perpetual injunction that will restrain the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) from taking any action relating to the financial activities (in the name of security votes) of the Office of the Secretary to the Bauchi State Government.

In the suit marked BA/834M/2024, the nine applicants, under the name of "Concern Indigenes of Bauchi State" stated that they have lost confidence in ICPC, the Economic

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“Our key objectives include ensuring transparency in local government operations, facilitating proactive disclosure of financial and administrative activities, enhancing public communication and citizen engagement, training officials on ethical governance, leveraging technology for transparency, promoting collaboration with civil society and development partners, establishing monitoring mechanisms, fostering inclusivity, and encouraging sustainable development practices.”

DR. MUSA ADAMU ALIYU, SAN
3rd April, 2025

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ICPC Secures Six-Year Jail Term Against Sokoto River Basin Director for Abuse of Office

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Rabiu Musa Matazu, Director of Administration of the Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority (SRRBDA), for corruptly converting public funds to personal use.

The Commission arraigned Mr. Matazu in Suit No. KTH/7C/2022 before Honourable Justice Abbas Bawule of the Katsina State High Court on a four-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and abuse of office.

During the trial, ICPC Prosecutor, Mr. Ibrahim Garba, informed the court that the convict had received the sum of Three Hundred and Five Thousand Naira (₦305,000) from his subordinate, Mr. Lawal Dan Sarki,



being rent proceeds from properties belonging to SRRBDA in Katsina State. Rather than remitting the money into the agency's account, Mr. Matazu misappropriated it for his personal benefit.

One of the charges against him read: "That you, Rabiu Musa Matazu (m), sometimes in October 2014 or thereabout within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, used your position as Director of Administration, Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority (SRRBDA), to

confer unfair advantage upon yourself by receiving the total sum of N305,000 proceeds from rent collected on behalf of your agency, which you converted to your personal use and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000."

Rabiu Matazu pleaded not guilty to all the counts when they were read to him, and the case proceeded to a full trial that lasted three years.

While delivering judgment on the case, Justice Bawule found Matazu guilty of all counts levelled against him by the ICPC and pronounced him convicted accordingly.

The court consequently sentenced him to six months imprisonment or an option of ₦20,000 fine on counts 1, 2, and 3, and five years' imprisonment without an option of fine on the fourth count. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The conviction underscores ICPC's resolve to ensure that public office is not used for personal gain and that offenders are held accountable under the law.

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Bauchi State Security Votes

and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) due to their "unwillingness to discharge their duties" over the office of the Secretary to the Bauchi State Government, which according to them has been turned into a financial drainpipe against the general interest of the populace of Bauchi State.

The applicants argued that since the ICPC, EFCC, and NFIU had "deliberately failed to take actions on the numerous complaints made to them for the alleged financial infractions in the Office of the Secretary to the Bauchi State Government, they prayed for an order of the court mandating the three anti-graft bodies to hands-off the matter and hand it over to the Nigeria Police.

The lawyer to the Applicants, Mr. M. J Jaldi,

in his oral argument, posited that "some of the actions of the 4th Respondents (Bauchi SSG), like payment of huge amounts of money in cash without passing through financial institutions, violate the provision of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act which calls for investigation by the Police."

ICPC, in response to the Application, filed a counter-affidavit to oppose all the reliefs sought by the applicants.

The Commission and its sister-agency, the EFCC, argued that what the Applicants were attempting to do was to set the Court to be used as an instrument of subversion in the performance of their statutory mandate. They stated that the Applicants failed to present any complaints or petitions to them against the 4th to the 25th respondents.

The ICPC also contend that neither it, nor EFCC or NFIU were the only anti-

corruption agencies in Nigeria and that nothing stops the Applicants from approaching other agencies of government (including the police) to investigate the alleged information of corrupt practices (against the 4th to the 25th Respondents) instead of filing for an order of perpetual injunction against the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents in court.

While delivering his judgement on the matter, Honourable Justice F.U. Sarki ruled that the power of the 1st to the 3rd Respondents (ICPC, EFCC, and NFIU) to investigate and prosecute did not exclude the powers of the 26th Respondent (The Police) to also investigate and prosecute. The judge held that the Police powers are even wider and general.

"It is not within the powers of this court to restrain the 1st to 3rd Respondents from carrying out their statutory functions. The application is therefore consequently refused," the judge ruled.

ICPC, State Commissioners of Information Forge Strategic Partnership to Strengthen Transparency and Accountability at State and Local Government Levels

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and State Commissioners of Information from the 36 states of the Federation have reaffirmed that the fight against corruption cannot be left to government institutions alone but must actively involve citizens through trust-building and strategic communication. This was the key outcome of a one-day roundtable engagement held yesterday in Abuja.

The renewed partnership marks a new phase in Nigeria's anti-corruption drive, aimed at deepening transparency, accountability, and good governance at both state and local government levels.

Both parties pledged to strengthen collaboration to institutionalize anti-corruption compliance systems, foster transparency, and embed accountability within governance structures nationwide.

The engagement, themed "Partnership for Strengthening Transparency and Accountability at the State and Local Government Levels through Strategic Communication," culminated in the issuance of a communique jointly signed by the ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, and the Borno State Commissioner for Information and Internal Security, Prof. Usman Tar.

Declaring the event open as Special Guest of Honour, the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi, commended the initiative and

underscored the critical importance of communication in the fight against corruption.

Other dignitaries in attendance included Distinguished Senator Emmanuel Udende, Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes; Hon. Prince Kayode Moshood

pressing challenges, particularly at the state and local government levels, where leakages have the most direct impact on grassroots development. It stressed that while access to information is critical, deliberate and consistent strategic communication remains the most effective tool to build trust, legitimacy, and collective action against corruption.

Participants resolved, amongst others, to sustain lasting collaboration and improve synergy between ICPC and State Commissioners of Information in carrying anti-corruption messages to states and local government councils through state-owned

media, implement deliberate and sustained communication strategies to build public trust, drive collective action, and embed anti-corruption messages in government information management systems, sensitize and mobilize citizens to demand accountability, report corrupt practices, and actively participate in governance, build the capacity of state and local government officials in strategic communication and transparency tools.

The Roundtable concluded by reaffirming that the fight against corruption requires not only institutional mechanisms but also citizens' active participation, trust, and sustained communication. The strategic partnership between ICPC and State Commissioners of Information thus represents a decisive step towards strengthening transparency, accountability, and good governance across Nigeria.



ICPC, State Commissioners of Information forge strategy partnership to strengthen transparency and accountability at State and Local Government levels

Akiola, Chairman, House Committee on Anti-Corruption; Prof. Usman Tar, Commissioner of Information and Internal Security, Borno State; Dr. Mohammed Bulama, Director-General, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria; representatives of the Directors-General of the National Orientation Agency and Voice of Nigeria; as well as Mr. Sunday Dare, Special Adviser to the President on Media and Public Communication.

In his welcome address, ICPC Chairman Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, emphasized the pivotal role of Commissioners of Information in shaping public discourse and mobilizing citizens to reject corruption. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Abdalla Uba Adamu of Bayero University, Kano, who highlighted the transformative role of strategic communication in governance.

The communique acknowledged that corruption remains one of Nigeria's most

Court Upholds ICPC's Investigative Powers in Kano Scholarship Funds Case

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured a major judicial victory as the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, sitting before Hon. Justice Josephine Obanor, dismissed attempts to restrain the Commission from carrying out its statutory mandate of investigation.

The matter arose from a petition received by the Commission alleging financial impropriety in the administration of Scholarship Funds in Kano State.

In the course of the investigation, ICPC invited officials from the Kano State Ministry of Higher Education and the Kano State Scholarship Board to provide documents and clarifications.

However, rather than comply, the Applicants, led by the Permanent Secretary of the Kano State Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Hadi Bala, filed Suit No. CV/2857/2025 against the Attorney-General of the Federation and ICPC, alleging that such invitations violated their fundamental rights.

Delivering judgment on the matter, Justice Obanor ruled that the officials of the Kano State Scholarship Board be properly joined as parties in the suit and that the Attorney-General of the Federation be struck out as a party, as his joinder was unnecessary.

The judge held that an invitation letter from ICPC, for an investigation purpose, does not constitute a breach of fundamental rights.

The Court held that the Applicants failed to show any violation of their rights and reaffirmed that ICPC cannot be restrained from performing its lawful duty of investigation. Consequently, the

suit was dismissed for lack of merit.

This ruling reinforces the Commission's authority to investigate cases of alleged corruption and financial misconduct in

line with its statutory mandate.

The ICPC reiterates its unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and justice in Nigeria's public sector, assuring Nigerians that due process and the rule of law will continue to guide its operations.

ICPC, PTAD Sign MoU to Combat Pension Fraud and Safeguard Retirees' Entitlements

By Khadijah Aminu-Ibrahim

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD), formalizing a strategic partnership to curb pension fraud and protect the entitlements of Nigerian retirees.



ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN and PTAD Executive Secretary, Tolulope Abiodun Odunaiya

Speaking at the signing ceremony, ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, lamented the hardships pensioners have suffered due to fraudulent practices, regretting that pension funds intended to provide security and comfort for retirees have too often become targets for unscrupulous individuals.

The ICPC Chairman stated emphatically that "the era of tolerating such acts is over. By combining PTAD's robust, increasingly digitized database with the investigative and prosecutorial powers of ICPC, we are creating a formidable force against pension fraud."

This partnership, Dr. Aliyu declared,

"will enable information sharing, joint investigations, and swift prosecution of those who prey on our elders."

He further appealed to Nigerians to support government efforts to ensure retirees live with dignity. "We owe it to our parents and grandparents, who dedicated their lives to this nation, to guarantee that their post-service years are marked by peace, not endless struggles for entitlements," he added.

In her remarks, PTAD Executive Secretary, Tolulope Abiodun Odunaiya, described the collaboration as a defining moment in the service of pensioners. She affirmed that the MoU reflects the agencies' shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance.

"The signing of this MoU is a clear testament to our joint resolve to uphold integrity and deliver on our mandates to pensioners and stakeholders. The tireless efforts of the technical teams from both institutions in crafting this comprehensive agreement are highly commendable, as the framework is designed to deliver tangible outcomes for retirees and the Nigerian people," Odunaiya said.

The MoU was jointly signed by the leadership of both agencies in the presence of their management teams, marking a strategic milestone in inter-agency cooperation to safeguard the rights and entitlements of Nigerian pensioners.

FGN vs. Jimi Lawal: Court Admits PW3's Statement as Evidence in Ongoing Money Laundering Trial

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

A Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna has admitted into evidence the written statement of Mr. Samuel Aruwan, the third prosecution witness (PW3), in the ongoing money laundering case filed by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) against Mr. Jimi Lawal and three others.

Mr. Lawal, a former Senior Special Adviser/Councilor to the immediate past Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, is standing trial alongside the former Accountant-General of the State, Mr. Umar Waziri, and the former Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Yusuf Inuwa, over allegations of abuse of office and diversion of public funds through fraudulent estacode payments. Also joined in the suit is Solar Life Nigeria Limited, a company whose account allegedly received the diverted funds.

In the case marked FHC/KD/16C/2025, ICPC accused the defendants of conspiring to divert the total sum of ₦64,800,562.00 (Sixty-Four Million, Eight Hundred Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Two Naira) in three tranches of ₦10,000,000.00, ₦47,480,000.00, and ₦7,320,562.00 into the account of Solar Life Nigeria Limited, where Mr. Lawal is believed to be the sole signatory.

During the proceedings, the prosecution presented three witnesses, including former Kaduna Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mrs. Aisha Dikko Kalil, the former Head of Service in the State, Mrs. Bariyatu Yusuf, and former Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr. Samuel Aruwan.

The three witnesses have so far denied

receiving estacodes from Mr. Lawal, who had claimed that the contentious ₦64,800,562.00 were earmarked as estacodes for the trainings embarked on by the former senior officials of the Kaduna State government.

Mr. Aruwan, in his testimony, specifically stated that his professional trainings were sponsored by the

Aikawa dismissed the objection, holding that PW3 was not an interested party in the matter.

The Court therefore admitted the statement as evidence, marked Exhibit 9, and allowed the prosecution to conclude its examination-in-chief.

Subsequently, when the matter was



Mr. Lawal, the former Senior Special Adviser/Councilor to the immediate past Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai.

United States Government and the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and not the Kaduna State Government. He further clarified that although he was professionally acquainted with Mr. Lawal, he neither received estacode allowances from him nor from the State Government.

Following his testimony, ICPC's prosecution team sought to tender Mr. Aruwan's written statement as evidence. The defence objected on procedural grounds, arguing that the statement was obtained during the pendency of the trial.

In his ruling, Honourable Justice R. M.

called for cross-examination, counsel to the 2nd defendant, J. J. Usman, SAN, who was represented by a junior from his chambers, sought an adjournment on the ground of his absence.

The Court consequently adjourned the case to 3rd November 2025 for cross-examination and continuation of hearing.

The ICPC is prosecuting the case as part of its sustained efforts to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in the management of public funds across all levels of government.

ICPC Chairman Urges Attorneys-General to Champion Integrity, Regional Cooperation Against Corruption

By Damilola Oye-Jegede

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has called on State Attorneys-General in the North-East to strengthen institutional integrity and deepen regional

Engagements have since been held in Kano, Asaba, Ilorin, and Enugu, before reaching Maiduguri for the North-East session.

He further acknowledged the support of the National Assembly Committees on Anti-Corruption and commended the presence of eminent jurists, including the

effective prosecution of corruption cases and national development".

He further acknowledged the achievements of both the ICPC and EFCC, citing reduced complaints of fraud and successful prosecutions as progress in building a more secure and accountable society.

At the end of the engagement, a communiqué was developed and read, reaffirming the participants' commitment to anti-corruption in the North-East and the resolve to formalize the partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), strengthening of preventive mechanisms such as procurement monitoring, and the establishment of a joint intelligence-sharing and case management framework to enhance investigations and prosecutions.

The communiqué also relayed the importance of capacity building for prosecutors and investigators, particularly in modern tools such as data-driven risk management, cybersecurity, and forensic technology.

It further highlighted the need for active public participation, using community leaders, civil society, and the media to communicate anti-corruption messages in local languages at the grassroots level.

In the end, the agreement reached is an indication that the North-East states would take the lead in ensuring accountability at both state and local government levels and thereby sustain the collaboration between Federal and State institutions, with a view not to just strengthen governance in the zone but also serve as a model for advancing integrity and accountability across the country.

The roundtable brought together Attorneys-General from Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States, alongside stakeholders from the judiciary, legislature, and academia.



Chairman, ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN in a group photograph with Attorneys-General from the North-East

cooperation in the fight against corruption.

Dr. Aliyu made the call in Maiduguri, Borno State, during the ICPC Roundtable Engagement with State Attorneys-General in the North-East Zone, themed "Institutional Integrity and Regional Cooperation: The Role of Attorneys-General in Advancing a Corruption-Free North-East."

In his welcome address, the ICPC Chairman emphasized that corruption undermines economies, fuels insecurity, and erodes public trust, stressing that only a united approach between Federal and State governments could effectively address the scourge.

"Punishment alone is not enough. We must combine approaches: recover stolen assets, restore justice to victims, strengthen our systems, and above all, work together across institutions and across regions," Dr. Aliyu stated.

The ICPC boss recalled that the initiative began on September 3, 2024, in Abuja with the inaugural roundtable, attended by 34 out of 36 Attorneys-General.

Chief Judge of Borno State, Hon. Justice Kashim Zannah, and Professor Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu, describing them as "towering figures of law and justice."

Delivering a keynote address, Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, SAN, underscored the necessity of collaboration between State Attorneys-General and the ICPC, stressing that the region, despite its vast potential, faces compounded challenges from insurgency, humanitarian crises, and slow recovery, making every naira lost to corruption a major setback.

Senator Lawan added that State Attorneys-General, as custodians of state laws, and the ICPC, with its federal investigative and preventive mandate, play complementary roles, describing their partnership as a "strategic imperative" that guarantees faster investigations, stronger prosecutions, and more effective preventive measures.

In a goodwill message, Hon. Justice Kashim Zannah, represented by Hon. Justice Aisha Kumalia, commended the engagement, noting the synergy between the Commission and State Attorneys-General, describing it as "vital for

Senate Applauds ICPC for Exemplary Adherence to Federal Character Principles, Urges Other MDAs to Emulate

By: Sela Abana

The Nigerian Senate has commended the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for its commendable and consistent adherence to the principles of Federal Character in the composition of its workforce and distribution of positions within the organisation.

This recognition was given at the National Assembly in Abuja by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs, Senator Allwell Onyesoh, during the appearance of the ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, and his management team before the Committee to present the Commission's staff profile and deployment statistics.

Speaking after the presentation, Senator Onyesoh expressed deep satisfaction with the Commission's transparency and inclusive practices. He praised the ICPC for demonstrating a clear commitment to fairness, equity, and national representation in its appointments and promotions. He urged other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to emulate the Commission's exemplary model.

In his words, "ICPC has shown that due process is not only possible but also achievable. What you have presented today gives us hope that we still have institutions and individuals committed to building a better Nigeria. You have honoured this institution by being open and transparent about how you conduct appointments and elevate officers to high positions."

Senator Onyesoh lamented that

several MDAs deliberately avoid appearing before the Committee, largely due to a lack of transparency and poor compliance with federal character requirements.

He also noted that many of those who have appeared before the Committee have failed to meet basic expectations, contrasting them with the ICPC's outstanding performance.

The Senator went further, "Whenever we encounter challenges

Presenting the Commission's personnel statistics, the ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, disclosed that the Commission currently has 1,163 staff members, fairly distributed across the six geopolitical zones as follows: North Central – 19%, North West – 19%, North East – 16%, South South – 16%, South West – 16%, and South East – 14%.

The ICPC Chairman further revealed that the Commission has ten directors overseeing its various departments, with nine substantive directors and one in acting capacity, also equitably distributed across the six zones.



ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN and management team during a meeting with Senate Committee, NASS

with any MDA regarding compliance with federal character principles, we will direct them to you so they can learn from your example. I am very pleased with the level of openness and accountability that ICPC has demonstrated today. It is truly worthy of emulation."

Other members of the Committee also commended the ICPC, noting that the Commission has distinguished itself by maintaining a balanced and transparent workforce. They described the ICPC's nominal roll and manpower distribution across the six geopolitical zones as unparalleled among government institutions.

According to Dr. Aliyu, "The Commission, as Nigeria's leading anti-graft agency, is proud to be practicing what it preaches. We are fully committed to upholding all extant rules and regulations, including the Federal Character Balancing Index, and we have been repeatedly commended by the Federal Character Commission for our consistent compliance."

He reaffirmed the Commission's dedication to promoting equity and inclusiveness, noting that these values are central to its mandate of fostering integrity and good governance in Nigeria.

ICPC Unveils Five Thematic Areas to Combat Corruption and Enhance Fiscal Transparency in Local Governments

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has outlined five key thematic areas to tackle corruption and enhance fiscal transparency in Nigeria's local government administration.

This initiative was announced during the launch of ICPC's Accountability and Corruption Prevention Programme for Local Governments in Nigeria (ACPP-LG).

In his address, ICPC Chairman Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, emphasised the urgency of tackling corruption at the local government level and ensuring financial transparency. He highlighted that the ACPP-LG reform was driven by a Supreme Court ruling affirming financial autonomy for local governments.

Dr Aliyu stated that the ICPC was committed to enforcing compliance with anti-corruption laws and fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and efficiency, stressing that "The ACPP-LG is designed to strengthen local councils' financial management, governance standards, and proactive disclosure".

According to him, "Our key objectives include ensuring transparency in local government operations, facilitating proactive disclosure of financial and administrative activities, enhancing public communication and citizen engagement, training officials on ethical governance, leveraging technology for transparency, promoting collaboration with civil society and development partners, establishing monitoring mechanisms, fostering inclusivity, and encouraging sustainable development practices".



ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN and management team during a meeting with Senate Committee, NASS

To achieve these objectives, the Commission has identified five thematic areas: Fiscal Transparency, Open Procurement, Human Resources, Corruption Control, and Citizens' Engagement.

His words, "By focusing on these areas, we aim to strengthen governance structures, enhance service delivery, and restore public trust in local governments. The ICPC will deploy its investigative, prosecutorial, and regulatory functions to ensure compliance. This includes legislative enforcement, periodic audits, and oversight mechanisms to identify and rectify non-compliance."

Dr. Aliyu, while appealing to state governments to support local councils in implementing the ACPP-LG reform without administrative obstacles, noted that the Commission would leverage technology and social media to mobilise citizens in the fight against corruption while ensuring grassroots participation.

The ICPC Chairman furthermore reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to prosecuting cases of fund diversion at the local government

level.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, Senator Emmanuel Udende, represented by a committee member, Senator Yaro Anthony Siyako, described the ACPP-LG reform as a timely and crucial initiative for ensuring efficiency and transparency in local government administration.

Senator Siyako, who reiterated the National Assembly's support for local government autonomy and called for the prudent and transparent use of allocated resources, opined that "As lawmakers, we are committed to enacting and strengthening legislation that promotes accountability, transparency, and good governance at all levels."

According to him, "The Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes will work tirelessly to support policies that guarantee the responsible management of public funds, ensuring that allocations meant for local governments translate into real development for the people."

He further emphasised that the National Assembly would remain vigilant in ensuring that local governments are held accountable for service delivery, poverty alleviation, and overall development through its oversight functions.

Commending the ICPC, he noted that the ACPP-LG initiative aligns with the Federal Government's National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) and acts as a proactive measure to prevent unethical practices that could hinder grassroots development.

"The ICPC's development of Assessment Variables and Corruption Prevention Tools will equip local governments with mechanisms to strengthen transparency, deter corruption, and foster good governance.

This initiative will go a long way in building trust in our governance institutions and ensuring that every naira allocated to local governments is used for its intended purpose," he added.

Similarly, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Anti-Corruption, Prince Kayode Moshood Akiolu, emphasised that one of the primary obstacles to the effectiveness of local governments had been their financial dependence on state governments. However, with the Supreme Court's judgment affirming full financial autonomy for local governments, this challenge would be resolved.

His words, "The only major foreseeable obstacle to local governments becoming

hubs of development is corruption. This is why the ICPC's rollout of the Accountability and Corruption Prevention Programme for local governments is a crucial step in instilling a culture of accountability and corruption prevention,".

In their goodwill messages, the Attorney-General of the Federation, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, represented by the Director of Public Prosecution, M.B. Abubakar, and other key stakeholders, lauded the ACPP-LG initiative. They emphasised that the initiative aligns with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and would significantly promote transparency, accountability, good governance, and development at the grassroots level.

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ICPC Recovered Over N20 Billion ICPC Chairman

equally committed to upholding the rule of law and human dignity," he stated.

Dr. Aliyu also underscored the importance of responsible information dissemination, particularly in safeguarding informants and preserving the integrity of ongoing investigations.

"In matters of enforcement, we share verified information through reports, newsletters, press releases, our website, and social media. However, we ensure that the identities of informants are protected and that the integrity of our investigations is not compromised," he added.

Strategic Action Plan and Media Engagement

The ICPC Chairman noted that the Commission is not seeking public validation but rather remains focused on delivering measurable results based on its Strategic Action Plan (2024-2028).

"We want our work to be evaluated based on our performance standards, not the need for attention or approval. Our commitment is to provide accurate information without exaggeration or

"We want our work to be evaluated based on our performance standards, not the need for attention or approval. Our commitment is to provide accurate information without exaggeration or self-promotion. Additionally, we pledge to respond promptly to media inquiries while adhering to legal and ethical guidelines."

self-promotion. Additionally, we pledge to respond promptly to media inquiries while adhering to legal and ethical guidelines," he affirmed.

Dr. Aliyu further disclosed that the ICPC is collaborating with reputable civil society organisations to implement a Corruption Prevention Program for Local Governments. The initiative aims to promote proactive disclosure of financial, procurement, and corruption-related information at the grassroots level.

Call for Media Collaboration

Recognising the media as a vital stakeholder in the anti-corruption fight, Dr. Aliyu urged journalists to work closely with the ICPC to enhance public awareness and amplify the commission's programs.

In his opening remarks, Professor Sule Ya'u Sule, FNIPR, a lecturer in Strategic Communication and Public Relations at Bayero University, Kano, and a vice president of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), commended the ICPC for the initiative and also stressed the need for his colleagues in the media profession to support the Commission's mission by reporting credible and timely information.

Similarly, Mrs. Hussaina Banshika, mni, Director at the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) and Deputy Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), expressed gratitude for the engagement.

She urged the ICPC Chairman to institutionalise regular interactions with the media to foster greater synergy and collaboration in the fight against corruption.

Alleged N1 Billion Money Laundering Suit: ICPC to Arraign KANSIEC Chairman, Secretary, One Other

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is set to arraign the Chairman of Kano State Independent Electoral Commission (KANSIEC), Professor Sani Lawan Malumfashi, and two others in court over an alleged One Billion Naira money laundering case.

Professor Malumfashi is expected to be arraigned at a Federal High Court, Abuja, alongside the Secretary of KANSIEC, Mr. Anas Muhammed Mustapha, and Mr. Ado Garba, a Deputy Director, Account Department of the State electoral body.

According to the ICPC, the trio had conspired sometime between November and December 2024 to commit fraud through a large-scale illegal cash transaction without regard for financial regulations and extant legislation prohibiting corruption and money laundering.

In the charge filed before the court, ICPC stated that its investigation revealed that KANSIEC, under Professor Malumfashi in November 2024 alone, transferred a total sum of N1,020,000,000.00 (One Billion and Twenty Million Naira) directly from its Unity Bank account to that of SLM Agro Global Farm, which has no contractual relationship with KANSIEC.

ICPC further revealed that while the defendants in the statements they volunteered argued that the transfers made to SLM AgroGlobal were made with the intention to raise cash needed to pay the ad hoc staff that

participated in the local government election in the state, and that the firm returned all such transfers to KANSIEC in cash.

Investigation however revealed otherwise as a letter from the defendant addressed to the Manager, Unity Bank, Zoo Road, Kano detailed wherein they requested transfer payment of the sum of N59, 400, 000.00 (Fifty-Nine Million, Four Hundred

justify the offence of money laundering," ICPC said.

The Commission added that its investigation further revealed that though the budget for the 2024 Election presented to the investigating officers (wrongly headed "Operation Budget 2025 Elections") has the amount of N20, 000, 000.00 (Twenty Million Naira) budgeted for the Team to conduct screening/verification of



Thousand Naira), attached with a cheque of same amount and a list of 468 Electoral Officers and 42 Assistance Electoral Officers' bank details for payment through the banking system.

This request, according to ICPC, was honoured by the bank, and the beneficiaries, one and all, got their payments.

"Their claim that the banking system or transfers would have been too slow to accommodate their requests in the case of ad hoc staff was found to be a mere conjecture, a screen to hide corruption and a lame excuse to

the candidates across 484 Wards and 44 Local Governments of Kano State. However, all the candidates were screened/verified in the Commission's office in Kano.

"The Team did not travel out of Kano and the candidates made it to KANSIEC office in Kano at their own expense, yet the 3rd Defendant in his statement to the ICPC investigating officers stated that the entire budget of N20 million was given in cash to the KANSIEC Members who constitute the screening/verification team."



Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Oparaodu, DSSRS,

Anti-Sexual Harassment Model Policy in Tertiary Institutions: ICPC, Gender Mobile Renew Push for Full Implementation

By Damilola Oye-Jegede

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has re-emphasised the urgent need for full implementation of the Model Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy in Nigerian tertiary institutions, stressing that the policy "must go beyond paper" and be translated into full implementation.

This renewed charge was the central message at a one-day stakeholders' engagement co-hosted by the ICPC with Gender Mobile Initiative and the FCT Education Secretariat, which took place at the ICPC headquarters in Abuja.

The event forms part of the activities targeted at driving states' level adoption of the Model Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy.

Delivering his special remarks, the Honourable Chairman, ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, who was represented by the Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Oparaodu, DSSRS, welcomed participants and reiterated the Commission's commitment to fighting corruption in all forms, including abuse of office through sexual harassment in educational institutions.

Dr. Aliyu highlighted ICPC's longstanding collaboration with Gender Mobile Initiative and Ford Foundation, which led to the development of a Model Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy which aligned with the Commission's mandate under Section 6 of the ICPC Act.

He revealed that the initiative also supports Gender Mobile's Campus Safety Initiative (CSI), aimed at leveraging technology and education to prevent sexual harassment, clarifying that while many institutions already have internal policies in place, the model policy serves as a benchmark to help them strengthen those policies or adopt new ones that reflect best practices.

"Sexual harassment is not only a form of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; it is a form of abuse of office and a crime," he stated. The Chairman acknowledged that the fight against corruption, especially within educational institutions, cannot be waged by the ICPC alone.

"If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together," he said, noting the importance of joint efforts between the public and civil society sectors.

He further noted that ICPC, with support from the Ford Foundation, also developed model policies for secondary and basic

educational institutions, which have been approved by the Federal Ministry of Education and are available on the Commission's website.

While encouraging institutions to adopt or adapt the policy to suit their unique contexts, the ICPC Boss stressed that continuous and consistent engagement remains vital, as "no one, irrespective of age, status, or gender, is immune from being a direct or indirect victim of sexual harassment."

Present at the event to deliver a welcome address was the FCT Mandate Secretary for Education, Dr. Danlami Hayyo, who commended the ICPC in partnership with the Gender Mobile Initiative (GMI) and other stakeholders who worked hard to bring the model policy to life in all institutions.

He stated that "sexual harassment is a menace that denies many victims their rights to full participation in society", urging educational institutions to lead the charge against the menace.

The Mandate Secretary further emphasised that as much as sexual harassment can stem from power imbalance, it can also occur between individuals of equal standing.

He enjoined all stakeholders to implement zero tolerance against sexual harassment and ensure confidentiality for complainants.

A Campus Safety Initiative Framework presentation was delivered by the Executive Lead, Gender Mobile Initiative (GMI), Barr. Omowumi Ogunrotimi, who gave an overview of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy, By-Stander Intervention, Preventive Education, CampusPal App, and an advocacy brief.

A Keynote Address was delivered by the Spokesperson, Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Akintunde Rotimi who was represented by Mr. Temidayo Taiwo Sadiq with Goodwill Messages from the SSA to the President on Student Engagement, representative of the National Female Students Association of Nigeria (NFSAN), Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and representative of National Board of Technical Education (NBTE).

The event was concluded with the presentation of the communique and closing remarks.

Court Dismisses Contractor's Application to Stop ICPC from prosecuting \$65 Million Money Laundering Case

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has dismissed an application by a contractor to stop the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) from prosecuting him and his company in a 65-million-dollar money laundering case.

The Contractor, Mr. Tarry Rufus, who is the Chief Executive of Good Earth Power Nigeria Limited, is being prosecuted by the ICPC alongside the former Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), Mr. Gimba Kumo Ya'u and the former Executive Director of FMBN, Mr. Bola Ogunola, over an alleged diversion of \$65,000,000 meant for the development of 962 units of residential housing in the Kubwa District of Abuja.

Honourable Justice Yilwa H. Joseph of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja, upheld that the evidence before the court proved that a *prima facie* case of alleged misappropriation had been established through legal investigation, and thus the court could not hinder the ICPC "from carrying out and performing its statutory duties".

She noted the Applicant's suit of illegal detention did not hold water, seeing as the court was not provided with evidence to prove so. The court added that the inability of Mr. Rufus to "fulfil the bail conditions, therefore, cannot be seen to have amounted to the breach of his fundamental rights by the ICPC and EFCC".

ICPC had previously accused Mr. Rufus and his company, Good Earth Power Nigeria Limited, of giving and receiving \$3,550,000.00 of the contract sum in cash, in contravention of the Money Laundering Act.

They were also suspected of having directly converted the sum of N991,399,255 into \$3,550,000.00 and handing over the same to one Jason Rosamond in cash, contrary to Section 18(2) (b) and punishable under Section 18 (a) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022."

Mr. Rufus, however, in December 2023, filed an application in court to stop the ICPC and the EFCC from inviting or involving him in the case over the alleged \$65 million fraud

purportedly perpetrated by the former Ex-Managing Director of FMBN, Mr. Gimba Kumo Ya'u.

He argued in his application that he had committed no infraction while executing the contentious contract, asking that the court order both the ICPC and EFCC to release all documents of land title received on the occasion of the administrative bail he was granted. He further claimed in his application that his detention by ICPC during their investigation was unlawful and a violation of

his fundamental human rights.

He subsequently implored the court to award N500 million against the ICPC, EFCC and FMBN "for initiating frivolous criminal persecution" against him.

ICPC Counsel O.B. Odogun argued that the statutory power of investigation vested in the Commission's establishing Acts allows the Commission to examine petitions of alleged misappropriation with great care.

ICPC further maintained that Mr. Rufus had voluntarily honoured the Commission's invitation to answer questions on suspicious cash flows from the account of Good Earth Power Nigeria Limited and that his inability to meet specified bail conditions was, in its entirety, his own responsibility.

ICPC Secures Conviction in Visa Document Forgery Case

By: Mary Omonoyan

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Lagos State Office, has secured the conviction of Ijamulisi Ayodele James for his role in the falsification of documents used in fraudulent applications for United Kingdom visas.

The conviction followed credible intelligence from the British High Commission, which alleged that the defendant was responsible for producing forged documents, including invitation and introduction letters purportedly from Clarivate Analytics and Thomson Reuters, alongside a counterfeit bank statement and pay slip.

The ICPC's prosecution team, led by Yvonne William-Mbata, had in the course of the trial, disclosed that the Commission's Investigations confirmed that the fraudulent documents were prepared at the request of Dennis Adetoye Adeniran and Awoke Nimota Omobolaji, both of whom had earlier been prosecuted and convicted in related cases in 2019 and 2025, respectively.

On 7th August, 2025, the defendant was arraigned before Hon. Justice R.A. Oshodi at the Ikeja Special Offences Court on a four-count amended charge of forgery under Section 467 of the Criminal Code Act, Cap C28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

He pleaded guilty to all counts under a plea bargain agreement approved by the

Commission.

Following his plea, the Court convicted the defendant and sentenced him to a fine of N1 million- or seven-days' imprisonment on each count, with the sentences to run concurrently.

The defendant is required to pay an aggregate fine of N4 million into a designated account or serve a custodial term of seven days at the Kirikiri Maximum Correctional Facility.

The Court further ordered the biometric registration of the convict in the Lagos State Judiciary Offenders' Database and mandated the filing of an affidavit of good behaviour at the High Court Registry.

In addition, the Commission reserves the right to reopen investigations should he violate the terms of his undertaking, or where new facts, undeclared assets, or offences relating to corruption subsequently emerge.

This conviction reinforces the Commission's resolve to tackle document fraud, protect the integrity of international travel systems, and uphold the rule of law in Nigeria.

**Do Not Give Or
Take Bribe,
Report any act
of Corruption to
the ICPC**

ICPC, Other Stakeholders Join NELFUND to Promote Transparent, Inclusive, and Fraud-Proof Student Loan Programme

By: Onoolapo Abodunde

The Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) has reaffirmed its commitment to building a transparent, accountable, and inclusive student loan scheme, unveiling key milestones and emphasising the need for inter-agency collaboration to protect the integrity of the national initiative.

This was highlighted during a recent stakeholder engagement workshop on system automation and loan applications

with the current government's focus on inclusive education reform, stressing that the Fund remains committed to continuity, credibility, and effective risk mitigation.

He further noted that NELFUND's progress in building a robust, data-driven framework aims to expand access to higher education while fostering public trust. He called on stakeholders to actively engage in joint oversight, risk assessments, and public enlightenment campaigns.

systemic bottlenecks.

In a presentation titled "NELFUND's Structure and Compliance Landscape", Executive Director of Operations, Mr. Iyal Mustapha, outlined the organisational vision and mechanisms. He stressed the need to maintain the integrity of the scheme by ensuring that only genuinely needy students benefit.

Also speaking, the Executive Director of Finance and Administration, Dr. Fred Akinfala, who discussed financial flow management and transparency measures, said "With transparency, integrity, and strong partnerships, this fund can become a model of efficiency and trust," while emphasising the need for collective action by all stakeholders.

The IT department gave a detailed demonstration of the digital infrastructure supporting the student loan program. The system requires students to create secure profiles with personal, educational, and banking information, which their respective institutions verify in real time.

At the end of the workshop, stakeholders proposed several collaborative action items, including the establishment of whistleblower and early warning systems, real-time data verification tools, joint audits and risk modelling, and public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities under the loan program.

The event brought together key federal agencies, including branches of the Anti-Corruption Agencies, the Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force, the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, the Nigeria Correctional Service, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Federal Fire Service, and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, among others.



NELFUND's Managing Director, Mr Akintunde Sawyerr (Middle) in a group photograph with Stakeholders

held in Abuja. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) participated in the session alongside other government agencies and stakeholders.

In his welcome address, NELFUND's Managing Director, Mr. Akintunde Sawyerr, expressed appreciation to all stakeholders for their support and reiterated the organisation's dedication to transparency and accountability.

Mr. Sawyerr emphasised that NELFUND's top priority is the satisfaction of its beneficiaries, aligning

During the workshop, three key risk areas—sustainability, reputation, and financial integrity—were identified. NELFUND assured stakeholders that it has implemented a fully automated and verifiable system to address these concerns effectively.

The proposed joint oversight mechanism is expected to yield comprehensive reports and monthly briefings with the ICPC. These updates will cover details such as beneficiary data at the federal and state levels, financial flows, potential threats, and

ICPC Arraigns Project Officers over Alleged Diversion of World Bank Project Funds in Adamawa



By: Shedrack Dauda

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned one Mr. Popoona Samuel and Mr. Arama Davies Gyandi before a Federal High Court sitting in Yola, Adamawa State, over an alleged diversion of funds released by the World Bank for the rehabilitation of schools affected by insurgency within the State.

The two accused persons were brought before Honourable Justice Tijjani G. Ringin on a four-count charge bordering on money laundering and retention/conversion of proceeds of an unlawful act.

According to the ICPC, the duo of Samuel and Gyandi, while serving as officers under the State Education Investment Project in the Office of the Accountant General of Adamawa State in 2020, allegedly conspired to launder funds belonging to the School-Based Management Committees of primary schools in the state.

Counts one and two of the charge read thus: "That you, Popoona Samuel (M) and Arama Davies Gyandi (M), sometime in the year 2020, at Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while serving as State Education Investment Project Officers in the Office of The Accountant General of Adamawa State, did conspire among yourselves to commit an offence of money laundering, to wit: you took possession of the total sum of N2,400,000.00 (Two Million, Four

Hundred Thousand Naira) refunded by the School-Based Management Committee of Kwaja Primary School, Mubi South, which was paid into Zenith Bank Plc Account No: 2116268547 belonging to Popoona Samuel, out of which the sum of N1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) was transferred to UBA Plc Account No: 2302541629 belonging to Arama Davies Gyandi, being part of the funds provided by the World Bank for the renovation of primary schools affected by insurgency in Adamawa, state when you reasonably ought to have known that the said sums formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: corruption.

"That you, Popoona Samuel (M), sometime in the year 2020, at Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while serving as the State Education investment Project Officer in the Office of the Accountant General of Adamawa State, did take possession of the sum of N2,500,000.00 (Two Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) refunded by the School-Based Management Committee of Mutuku Primary School, Hong, from Unity Bank Plc Account No: 0042530017 and the sum of N2,400,000.00 (Two Million, Four Hundred Thousand Naira) refunded by the School-Based Management Committee of Kwaja Primary School, Mubi South, into your Zenith Bank Plc Account No: 2116268547, being part of the funds provided by the World Bank for the renovation of primary schools affected by insurgency in Adamawa State, when you reasonably ought to have

known that the said sums formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: corruption."

The defendants, however, pleaded not guilty to all charges when read to them.

In view of the 'not guilty' pleas entered by the defendants, counsel to the ICPC, Mr. T.S. Iorngue, applied to the court for a date for the commencement of trial.

Counsel to the defendants, S.J. Wugira, on his part, moved an application for bail for his clients, which the court granted under the following terms:

"Bail bond of N5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) with one surety in like sum. The surety must be a Federal Public Servant or Adamawa State Government Public Servant on salary grade level 14 and above, or a traditional ruler not below the rank of District Head, or a Director of a company registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with a share capital of at least N10,000,000.

Additionally, the Defendants and their surety are to provide: Two recent passport photographs, official means of identification, a valid registered phone number, an affidavit of means, a recommendation letter from the Defendants' counsel, utility bills, and a proper verification of the residential address of the surety by the court and the prosecution.

The case was thereafter adjourned for the commencement of trial.

Abuja Court Strikes Out Fundamental Rights Suit against ICPC

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has struck out a fundamental rights suit brought against the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) by one Mr. James Ereboye.

The suit, which sought to question the ICPC's power to place a 'Post No Debit' on the plaintiff's account without a court order, was adjudged as lacking in merit.

The plaintiff had also sought the order of the court to compel the ICPC to pay him the sum of forty-million, two hundred and eighty-seven thousand, two-hundred and nine-naira (N40, 287, 209) and a cost of legal services of five million naira



(N5,000,000).

In his ruling on the matter, Justice Emeka Nwite said the suit itself was an abuse of court process and lacked merit.

The judge explained that the suit, which had earlier been decided by his learned colleague, Justice Babangida Hassan of a court of coordinate jurisdiction, and which has also been filed at the Court of Appeal,

need not have been brought to his court.

Justice Nwite added that he found the suit "appalling" and described it as "judicial rascality" and an abuse of court process.

He therefore awarded damages against the plaintiff.

In his words, "It is a classical act of abuse of court process. I deliberately refuse this rascality. The court has the right to invoke its coercive power to punish the plaintiff, and I hereby order that the sum of Two Hundred Thousand naira be paid to each of the defendants (ICPC, Sterling Bank, and Polaris Bank)."

The judgment further upheld ICPC's powers as contained in section 45 (1) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 to place a "post no debit" on any account suspected as fraudulent or which is the object of investigation without a court order; a law which the plaintiff believed infringed on his right and was seeking for the lifting of the clause on the account as well as payment of other damages.

College Rector Bags 7-Year Jail Term for Running Fake Degree Courses

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of one Mr. Olaniran Satiregun for running fake and unapproved courses in his college in Nasarawa State.

Mr. Satiregun was the Founder/Rector of International College of Administration Science and Technology, Auta Balefi, Nasarawa State.

He was first arraigned alongside the institution in 2024 on a three-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, contrary to Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act.

ICPC's Prosecutors, led by Mr. Adesina Raheem, had, in the course of the trial, detailed how the two defendants deceived unsuspecting applicants by offering admissions to study courses that were not accredited by the regulatory body.

Investigations revealed that the institution only got approval from the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to run four

courses.

However, it was discovered that the institution, sometimes between the years 2019 and 2021, offered admissions to some applicants into the College to study courses like Nursing, Public Health, and Computer Science.

One of the counts against the college and its Rector read: "That you, International Professional College of Administration Science and Technology Nigeria Ltd and Satiregun Olaniran (M) between 2019 and 2021 in Auta Balefi, Nasarawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court by false pretense, and with intent to defraud did obtain for yourselves the sum of N110,000 (One Hundred and Ten Thousand Naira) from Onmonya Daniel Ogah as school fees and cost of admission letter for being admitted to study Three years professional programme in public health/nursing science and (Bsc) degree conversion with recognized international university (after graduation) and/or professional certificate (CIA, CICN, IDPMN, NIMN, CICMAN, ICAN, NIM, RSA ETC) in International Professional

College of Administration Science and Technology Nigeria Ltd, whereas International Professional College of Administration Science and Technology Nigeria Ltd, Nasarawa State does not have the approval to run three year programme in Public Health /Nursing Science or award degree in Nigeria and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 Sub Section (1) (a) and punishable under Section 1 Sub-Section (3) of the Advanced Fee Fraud Act 2006."

While delivering a judgment on the case, Honourable Justice Anyalewa Onoja-Alapa of the Federal High Court, Lafia, Nasarawa State, found the two defendants guilty of all counts levelled against them.

The Judge also sentenced the 2nd defendant (Mr. Satiregun) to 7 years imprisonment without the option of a fine.

The Judge further directed that all fees collected from the unsuspecting students who were offered illegal courses in the college be refunded to them and that the institution should limit itself to just four courses approved by the approving authority.

ICPC Secures Conviction of Edo's Civil Servant over Double Salary Fraud

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of a civil servant, Mr. Ewere Morgan Eseosa, for receiving double salaries in gross violation of anti-corruption laws.

Following a detailed investigation, the Commission uncovered that Mr. Eseosa had been simultaneously drawing salaries from two separate government entities: the University of Benin, where he was originally employed, and Ikpoba Okha Local Government Council, where he subsequently got another employment.

This act, which contravenes the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000, resulted in the illegal accumulation of ₦1,328,255.47 (One Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Two-Hundred and Fifty-Five Naira, Forty-Seven Kobo) in unearned payments.

Upon concluding its investigation, the ICPC, through its Prosecutor, Dennis Nnaemeka Okoro, charged Mr. Eseosa with two counts of obtaining by false pretence and cheating under Sections 419 and 421 of the Criminal Code Act 2004.

The case was filed before the Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin, under Charge No. B/CD/ICPC/2C/2024, following the necessary administrative approvals for prosecution.

One of the counts read: "That you, Mr. Ewere Morgan Eseosa (M), between September 2018 to February 2021 or thereabout in Benin City within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, by pretense and with intent to defraud, obtained employment at Ikpoba Okhia Local Government Council Edo State as a special assistant (Press Secretary) without disclosing that he was at a material time working at the University of Benin, as a Security Officer 11 (step 2 of CONTISS 07) on full time and mislead Ikpoba Okhia Local Government Council Edo State into giving him employment and



thereby obtained double emolument September 2018 to February 2021."

Subsequently, the defendant entered into a plea bargain agreement with the prosecution. Under this arrangement, the initial two-count charge was amended to one, to which the defendant pleaded guilty. The agreement allowed him to avoid a custodial sentence

under the condition that he fulfil specified terms.

In line with the plea deal, Mr. Eseosa was sentenced to one year's imprisonment or a fine of ₦150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira Only).

The trial judge, Honourable Justice Williams Aziegbe, also ordered the convict to refund to the Federal Government of Nigeria through the ICPC Recovery Account, the sum of ₦1,328,255.47 (One Million, Three-Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Two-Hundred and Fifty Naira, and Forty-Seven Kobo), which was fraudulently received as salaries.

This conviction underscores ICPC's unwavering commitment to promoting integrity in public service and ensuring accountability among public officials.

Convicted! Immigration Officer Found Guilty of Employment Fraud

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corruption Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Saifullahi Haruna, an Officer of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) who was involved in employment fraud.

Following a petition received against him, the convict was arraigned before a Katsina State High Court on a one-count charge which borders on obtaining by deceit and abuse of office.

According to the ICPC, Mr. Haruna, sometime in 2021, fraudulently obtained the sum of ₦140,000.00 in installments from his victim by means of an act constituting a felony, under the pretense that he was going to secure employment for him in the Nigeria Immigration Service.

He, however, failed to secure the said employment, nor was he able to refund the money until a petition was written against

him to the ICPC.

Mr. Haruna, however, pleaded guilty and was thus convicted to a one-year imprisonment or an option of a fine of 10,000.00 pursuant to a plea-bargain and sentencing agreement entered into with the ICPC.

The presiding judge, Honourable Justice A.B Abdullahi, ruled that the court, having considered the application for plea bargain and given the fact that the defendant has since refunded the amount subject to the offence, "the court hereby accepts the Plea Bargain and accordingly offers the convict an option of fine in lieu of imprisonment.

"The convict is hereby sentenced to pay a fine of ₦10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) in default of payment of which, the convict shall serve one year imprisonment. The court further ordered that the amount recovered be paid to the nominal complainant, Adamu Ibrahim, if not already done."

ICPC Trains Akwa Ibom State LG Officials on Corruption Prevention

By Sela Abana

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has conducted a two-day capacity-building workshop for Akwa Ibom State Local Government Officials on corruption prevention and optimal resource management in local government administration.

The Workshop was organised by the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), a training and research arm of the Commission, in collaboration with the Foundation for Transparency and Accountability (FTA), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and with support from the Akwa Ibom State Government.

The Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, who was represented by the Director, Systems Study and

Review Department of the Commission, Mr. Olusegun Adigun fsi, stated that the Commission had designed the workshop to help principal officers of the Akwa Ibom State local government councils identify corruption risks in their domains to develop appropriate prevention measures.

"To avoid both internal and external pitfalls as principal officers of the Akwa Ibom State Local Government Areas, a gathering of this nature will avail you ample opportunity to share ideas, experiences and strategies on how to handle issues, particularly institutionalised internal practices that are traps, set to make you complicit in

future corrupt practices", he said.

According to Dr. Aliyu, the Commission has, in response to the full financial autonomy of the third-tier of government in Nigeria, set up the Accountability and Corruption Prevention Programme for Local Government (ACPP-LG), a corruption prevention mechanism for proactive disclosure of relevant information and compliance to ensure transparency and accountability in the operations and decision-making processes of the local

its enforcement mandate that allows it to prosecute local government officials who are found guilty of engaging in corrupt practices.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman of the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON), Akwa Ibom State, Dr. Uwemedimo Udo, thanked the ICPC for organising the workshop specifically for all local government principal officers from the State. He assured the Commission that they were ready to put into practice all that they were going to



Akwa Ibom State Local Government Officials in a group photographs during the training

governments.

He further revealed that the ACPP-LG initiative would help to monitor and evaluate the performance of local governments, ensuring continuous improvement and responsiveness to citizens' needs.

According to him, "ACPP-LG has a robust citizen engagement component, which will enhance the effective communication of the local government activities to the public, fostering trust and understanding as well as active and continuous public participation in governance and decision-making."

Dr. Aliyu warned the participants that the Commission will not shy away from

learn.

According to Dr. Udo, "We do not trivialize this training at all. This is due to the multi-faceted impact of corruption beleviling our country. This is the reason why all of us are here, so we can be trained and retrained on how we can help tackle corruption at the grassroots level. We are therefore ready to ensure that we practice what we would be taught here".

The participants comprised of ALGON leadership and other local government council chairmen, leaders of legislative councils, heads of service, directors of finance, and other officials from across the 31 LGCs of Akwa Ibom State.



Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Oparaodu, DSSRS, and the British International Liaison Officer, Mr. Cora Oakley at the ICPC headquarters in Abuja

Organised Immigration Crimes: UK Strengthens Collaboration with ICPC

By Amina Haruna

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to enhancing international cooperation in the fight against organised immigration crime through a deepened partnership with the British Home Office.

This reaffirmation was made when a high-level delegation from the British Home Office International Operations Team paid a courtesy visit to the ICPC headquarters in Abuja.

The Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, represented by the Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Oparaodu, DSSRS, emphasised that the Commission remains open to meaningful and strategic partnerships to combat all forms of corrupt practices, including transnational crimes such as immigration-related offences.

Mr. Oparaodu reiterated the ICPC's willingness to contribute its institutional expertise and investigative tools to support ongoing efforts under the framework of the Organised Immigration Crime Unit (OICU).

He also reiterated the Commission's readiness to offer digital forensic support, particularly in the extraction and analysis of electronic evidence from digital devices, which is crucial in complex cross-border investigations.

The British delegation, led by its International Liaison Officer, Mr. Cora Oakley, explained that the visit aimed to update the ICPC on the current focus and strategic direction of the OICU.

The Unit, Mr. Oakley explained, was a collaborative initiative bringing together experienced investigators and prosecutors from both Nigeria and the United Kingdom to jointly combat organised immigration crimes.

Mr. Oakley elaborated on the successes already recorded by the OICU, noting that several major investigations had resulted in arrests, with sustained efforts underway to dismantle criminal syndicates exploiting the immigration systems of both nations.

He highlighted the significant role that cooperation with Nigerian agencies like the ICPC has played in achieving these milestones, adding that the British Government, through the Home Office, has provided vital support to the OICU in the form of training programmes, investigative

software, operational equipment, and a dedicated vehicle to enhance the Unit's mobility and efficiency.

Emphasising the importance of continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing, Oakley reiterated the UK's unwavering commitment to addressing abuses of its immigration and visa systems through organised criminal networks.

He outlined plans to expand the capacity of investigators through intermediate-level training sessions and also announced an upcoming Immigration Crime Summit to be hosted in the United Kingdom.

Additionally, Mr. Oakley revealed that the ICPC has been officially included as a key participant in the forthcoming UK-Nigeria bilateral talks scheduled for later this year, noting that the ICPC's previous collaborations with the UK have been instrumental in shaping effective strategies and joint operations in tackling immigration-related corruption and organised crime.

The visit concluded with a mutual commitment to build on existing successes and strengthen the operational and strategic ties between the two countries in their shared mission to combat corruption and transnational organised immigration crime.

ICPC Secures Conviction of FAAN Staff for Forgery

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Iyonu Esceme, a staff of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), for using a forged Trade Test Certificate to obtain employment with the agency.

Mr. Esceme was arraigned before Honourable Justice M.I. Tanko of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Maitama, Abuja, on a three-count charge bordering on forgery. The charges were brought under Sections 366 and 368 of the Penal Code Act, as well as Section 25 (1)(b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

One of the charges read: "That you, Iyonu Esceme (M), sometime in the month of August 2020 at Abuja, within



the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did with intent to commit fraud, forge a Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity Certificate of Competence also known as Trade Test Certificate I, II, III (2014) with trade test code KN/6/90052, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 363 and

punishable under Section 364 of the Penal Code."

Upon arraignment, the defendant, through his counsel, Mr. Anthony Idanosa Eruaga, opted for a plea bargain. The prosecuting counsel for the ICPC, Mr. Nura Saidu, accepted the plea bargain in accordance with Section 270 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 and recommended to the court a conviction with a fine.

Justice M.I. Tanko, having considered the plea and the agreement reached by both parties, convicted Mr. Esceme and sentenced him to a fine of Fifty Thousand Naira (₦50,000.00) only.

The ICPC reiterates its commitment to ensuring integrity and transparency in public institutions and warns that acts of forgery and other corrupt practices will not go unpunished.

Fake Employment Fraud: ICPC Obtains Conviction of Aviation Staff

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction in a case involving a staff member of the Federal Ministry of Aviation, Elvis Simon Okerenyi, who was facing charges bordering on forgery and giving "fake employment" to a job-seeker.

Investigations revealed that Mr. Okerenyi had allegedly defrauded a job seeker, Titus Tavershima, of the sum of (₦1,000,000.00) One Million Naira to secure employment in the Federal Civil Service. This act is contrary to Section 320 and punishable under Section 322 of the Penal Code, Cap 532, Laws of the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria, 2006. Subsequently, the defendant entered into a plea bargain agreement with the



prosecution; the initial seven-count charge was amended to a count charge to which the defendant pleaded guilty.

The defendant pleaded guilty upon his arraignment based on a plea bargain agreement before Justice S. C. Oriji of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and was convicted

pursuant to section 270(10) ACJA on the only charge in the amended charge. The court further sentenced the convict to one (1) year imprisonment or an option of a fine of N200, 000.00 and ordered him to restitution the sum of N350,000.00 to Titus Tavershima, the victim of his crime.

British High Commission Donates Forensic Workstation to ICPC Lagos

By Mary Omonoyan

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Lagos State Office has received a cutting-edge forensic tool from the British High Commission, underscoring ongoing cooperation between Nigeria and the United Kingdom in advancing investigative capacity and institutional efficiency.

During a brief handover ceremony, Ms. Hannah Chatterton, representing the British High Commission, formally presented the VSC 80/FS Compact Forensic Questioned Document Examination (QDE) Workstation and its accompanying components to the Lagos Office of the Commission.

The forensic equipment was received on behalf of the Commission by the Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner (RACC) for Lagos State, Mr. Chukwurah

casework.

Speaking at the event, representatives of both institutions highlighted the value of partnerships that enhance institutional tools and promote accountability through technology-driven solutions.

This donation forms part of a broader collaboration between Nigeria and the United Kingdom aimed at strengthening the rule of law, building technical expertise, and equipping public institutions with the necessary resources to carry out their mandates effectively.

The ICPC Lagos Office expressed appreciation to the British High Commission for the generous donation and reaffirmed its commitment to utilizing the equipment to its full potential in line with the Commission's mandate.



The ICPC Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner (RACC) for Lagos State, Mr. Chukwurah Alexander, fsi in a handshake with Ms. Hannah Chatterton, representing the British High Commission

Alexander, fsi. The device, designed for high-precision document authentication, is expected to further support the Commission's investigative processes and

Court Dismisses Application for Order of Mandamus against ICPC

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Federal High Court in Abuja, presided over by Justice M.O. Liman, has dismissed an application seeking an order of mandamus against the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and six other respondents.

An order of mandamus, also known as a writ of mandamus, is a judicial directive that compels a public official or body to perform a legal duty. It is an extraordinary remedy typically granted only when a party has a clear legal right to the performance of that duty, and the official in question has failed or refused to act.

The applicant, Dr. Fanen Ade, had approached the court seeking an order compelling the ICPC, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and the Inspector-General of Police (the 5th, 6th, and 7th respondents) to carry out a detailed investigation into a public-private partnership between the Federal Housing

Authority (FHA) and ENL Consortium Limited for the development and sale of housing units at the FHA/ENL Paradise Hills Estate in Abuja.

In addition, Dr. Ade requested that the court award the sum of ₦1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) in exemplary and aggravated damages against the 1st to 4th respondents namely, the Federal Housing Authority, ENL Construction Limited, Princess Vicki Haastrup, and Mbaka Agwu for the alleged unlawful violation of his right of access to information, as guaranteed by Sections 1(1) and 4 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.

The Applicant also cited wrongful denial of access to information under Section 7(4) of the same Act.

Delivering his judgment, Justice Liman dismissed the case in its entirety, ruling that the conditions for granting a mandamus were not met. He said "The principle of the order of mandamus cannot apply where there is discretion to act, or where there exists an

alternative specific legal remedy albeit less convenient, beneficial, or effective. It also cannot be granted where the applicant has delayed unduly before bringing the application."

Justice Liman further held that with regard to the 1st to 4th respondents, the relief sought by the applicant was inapplicable because the information requested was private and therefore exempted under the Freedom of Information Act.

According to Justice Liman, "The order of mandamus against the 5th to 7th respondents is also unavailable for the simple reason that the applicant did not first make any direct demand on these respondents to perform a specific public duty. Consequently, the necessary condition precedent for invoking the jurisdiction of the court was not fulfilled."

The judge added that criminal investigations are inherently broad in scope and method, and the court is not in a position to issue an order it cannot effectively enforce.

ICPC, Shippers' Council Forge Partnership to Promote Transparency and Curb Corruption in Port Sector

By Khadijah Aminu-Ibrahim

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has expressed its readiness to collaborate with the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) to strengthen anti-corruption measures, promote transparency, and build capacity within Nigeria's marine and blue economy.

The ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, gave the assurance during a courtesy visit by the Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigerian Shippers' Council, Barrister Akutah Pius Ukeyima, MON, to the Commission's headquarters in Abuja.

Dr. Aliyu stated that ICPC was open to a strategic partnership to enhance economic growth by tackling corruption in the port sector, noting, "ICPC is willing and ready to work with you to ensure that Nigeria's economy is in good shape".

While emphasising the importance of empowering young people who work in the port sector, Dr. Aliyu said, "There are a lot of youths working in the ports. Whatever we can do to ensure they have job opportunities and a future, we should do it."

The ICPC Chairman called for the integration of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) into the partnership framework, underscoring the need for joint efforts among agencies such as ICPC and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to enhance national security, facilitate global trade, and improve the ease of doing business.

Furthermore, Dr. Aliyu pledged to support the NSC in building the capacity of its personnel and leveraging technology to boost transparency and enforcement across the sector.

The ICPC boss, who reeled out past

successes in the collaboration between both agencies, noted a significant reduction in reported corrupt practices at the ports, stressing that "the Port Standing Task Team worked.

"Based on reports, in 2019, bribery (in the ports sector) dropped from 266

commitment to revitalising the Port Standing Task Team, which he described as instrumental in enhancing Nigeria's image internationally. "With the ongoing legal reforms and our mandate to prevent corruption, we can achieve a lot together in terms of accountability and transparency".



ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN and Barrister Akutah Pius Ukeyima, MON, the Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigerian Shippers' Council

incidents to 24 incidents in 2020. So, we need that sort of collaborative work. We need the team revived. Maybe with the coming of the new act, it will enable us to work together more"

His words, "I am glad to receive you today. Both agencies are critical to Nigeria's economy. We need transparency and accountability in the ports sector. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy encourages agencies to collaborate in ethical orientation and public engagement, among others. There are corruption challenges because of the kind of work you do, and we have the mandate to prevent it. All of us have to put our hands together".

This past success, he noted, attracted international interest, with countries such as Ukraine and Uganda visiting Nigeria to understudy its anti-corruption strategies.

Dr. Aliyu, therefore, expressed a strong

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigerian Shippers' Council, Barrister Akutah Pius Ukeyima, MON, acknowledged the longstanding relationship between both agencies and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to sanitising the port sector, which he described as the gateway to Nigeria's economy.

He called for enhanced enforcement mechanisms and urged the ICPC to support data sharing, intelligence exchange, and a joint capacity-building Programme to boost awareness and understanding of anti-corruption practices among port stakeholders.

This renewed collaboration between ICPC and the Nigerian Shippers' Council marks a significant step toward strengthening institutional frameworks, promoting ethical standards, and reinforcing the fight against corruption in Nigeria's maritime and blue economy sector.

ICPC Docks Former Court of Appeal Staff for Job Racketeering

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned a former Court of Appeal staff, Munirat Abdulazeez, before a Federal Capital Territory High Court, Bwari, over her alleged involvement in a job racketeering scam.

The defendant was brought before

2018 to 2023 when she was sacked due to her involvement in this racketeering and auction fraud, sometimes in September 2022 to July 2023 obtained by false pretense, the total sum of N9,200,000 (Nine Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira) from eight unsuspecting job seekers, an offence which is contrary to section 1 (1) (a) and punishable under section 1 (3) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Related

Haruna Idris Lokos, Yusuf Musa, Mahmud Jibrin, Adama Mohammed Maude, Shuaibu Musa, Ahmed Sunusi and Aliyu Ahmed which sum was paid into your Access bank account with account number 1496346113 under the guise of securing employment for them in the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 1 (1) (a) and punishable under section 1 (3) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act 2006'.

The accused person, however, pleaded not guilty when the two-count charge was read to her.

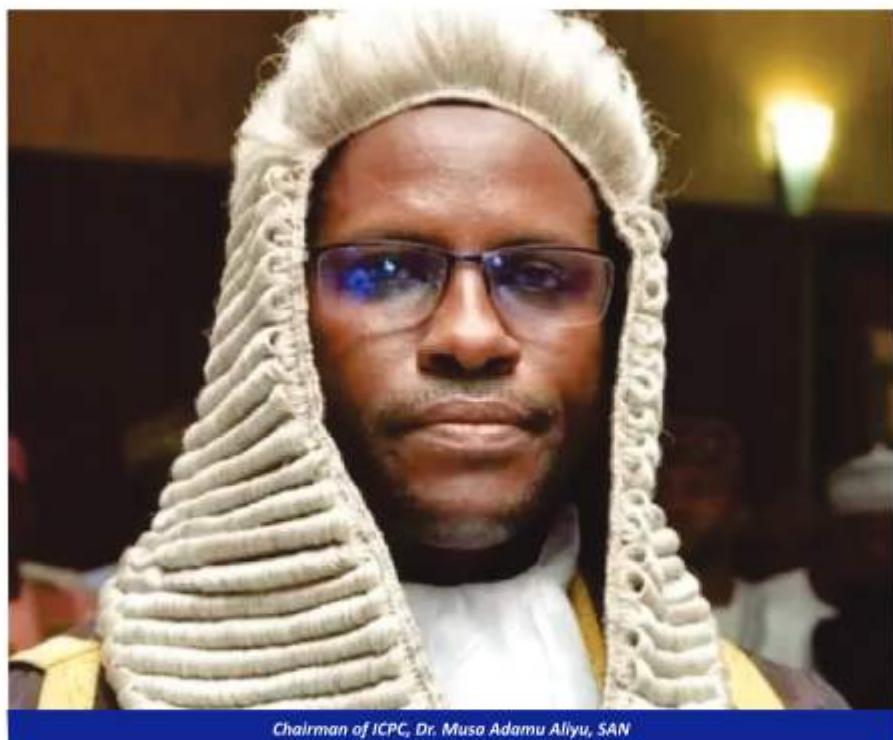
In the light of the 'not guilty' plea entered by the defendant, counsel to the ICPC, Mr. Hamza Sani, applied to the court to maintain the subsisting date, to allow the prosecution to present its witnesses on the said date.

A bail application moved on behalf of the defendant was also not opposed by the ICPC, which indicated the Commission's readiness to proceed with the hearing.

Justice Iheabunke granted the defendant a ten-million-naira bail with two sureties in like sum.

The sureties, according to the judge, must have landed property within the jurisdiction of the court and must deposit the title documents with the court Registrar, and the same must be confirmed by the Registrar. The Defendant must write to the court formally in any event she wants to travel."

The matter was thereafter adjourned in order to allow the prosecution assemble all his witnesses. The court also vacated the subsisting date as agreed between the counsel.



Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN

Justice Godwin Iheabunke, who had earlier ordered her arrest after she failed to appear in court to take her plea in the suit filed against her by the ICPC.

According to the ICPC, the defendant was arraigned for involvement in a job racketeering scam, where she promised her victims nonexistent jobs with the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

The Commission's investigation also showed that Mrs. Abdulazeez who worked with the Court of Appeal from

Offences Act 2006'.

One of the counts reads: "That you MUNIRAT ABDULAZEEZ (AKA JUMMAI) (F) sometimes between September to December, 2022 and the month of January to July, 2023 or thereabout at Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while being a staff with the Court of Appeal Nigeria, Abuja division with intent to defraud did obtain by false pretence the sum of N9,200,000 (Nine Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira) only from Musa Mohammed Maude and his other friends including Sule Sadanu,

ICPC Hosts Strategic Engagement to Strengthen Accountability and Combat Corruption in Local Government Administration

By Khadijah Aminu-Ibrahim

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has reiterated its commitment to enhancing accountability and curbing corruption within Nigeria's local government systems.

This was declared during a strategic meeting with members of the National Anti-Corruption Coalition (NACC) on the theme Accountability and Corruption Prevention in Local Governments, held at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, who emphasized the vital role accountable local government councils play in fostering national development, asserted that local governments remain susceptible to numerous forms of corruption, ranging from diversion of public funds, employment of ghost workers, to contract inflation challenges which severely hinder grassroots development and erode public trust.

Dr. Aliyu underlined the Commission's broader anti-corruption mandate, which goes beyond investigations and prosecution, and includes preventive measures, public education, and the promotion of integrity across all sectors. He declared the meeting a strategic platform to generate practical and actionable anti-corruption solutions.

"The ICPC fully recognises the critical role that a robust and accountable local government system plays in national development. Our mandate, as enshrined in the ICPC Act, extends beyond the prosecution of corruption offenders", he said.

"It encompasses a proactive approach to corruption prevention, public education, and fostering a culture of integrity across all tiers of government



Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN

and segments of society. This engagement, therefore, is not merely a talk shop; it is a strategic convergence of minds, dedicated to forging practical solutions to a persistent challenge," Dr. Aliyu stressed.

He concluded his remarks by stressing the urgency of deploying practical strategies to improve financial transparency, strengthen internal control mechanisms, and utilise technology to detect and prevent corruption at the grassroots level.

One of the highlights of the event was a presentation by Dr. Umar Yakubu, CEO of the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity, who delivered a paper titled Local Government Accountability Initiatives.

Dr. Yakubu, who outlined five essential elements as preventive mechanisms against

corruption at the local level: Financial Management, Open Procurement, Human Resources, Citizen Engagement, and Control of Corruption and emphasised that applying these elements could significantly advance efforts to eliminate corruption in local government systems.

He further called for transparency and proactive disclosure of critical information by local government authorities, urging stakeholders to embrace openness as a core principle in their operations to achieve measurable progress.

Additionally, Mr. Bello Bakori, Deputy Director of ICPC's Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Initiative, presented a paper on Measures of Combating Corruption in Local Government Councils in Nigeria.

He advocated for a multidimensional and inclusive approach that integrates legal reforms, technological solutions, and active community participation as essential ingredients in the fight against corruption.

The strategic meeting drew participation from ICPC Directors, Commission staff, members of the National Anti-Corruption Coalition, key stakeholders, and members of the media.



Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN (middle) with members of the National Anti-Corruption Coalition (NACC)

ICPC Secures Conviction of Lagos Civil Servant over Double Salary Fraud

By Mary Omonoyan

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of a Lagos State civil servant, Mr. Emmanuel Ogunyemi, for receiving double salaries in gross violation of anti-corruption laws.

Following a detailed investigation, the Commission uncovered that Mr. Ogunyemi had been simultaneously drawing salaries from two separate government entities—the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the Agbado Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

This act, which contravenes the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000, resulted in the illegal accumulation of ₦3,491,874.90 in unearned payments.

Upon conclusion of its investigation, ICPC charged Mr. Ogunyemi with eight counts of corrupt practices under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

The case was filed before the Lagos State

High Court sitting in Ikeja under Charge No: ID/25541C/2024, following necessary administrative approvals for prosecution.

Subsequently, the defendant entered into a plea bargain agreement with the prosecution. Under this arrangement, the initial eight-count charge was amended to three counts, to which the defendant pleaded guilty. The agreement allowed him to avoid a custodial sentence under the condition that he fulfil specified terms.

In line with the plea deal, Mr. Ogunyemi was sentenced to pay a fine of ₦1,500,000 and to complete three days of community service, as directed by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice's Community Service Officers.

The accused was also required to execute a good behaviour bond valued at ₦5,000,000, which would be forfeited in the event of any future misconduct.

Before the court proceedings, Mr. Ogunyemi had voluntarily refunded the full amount of ₦3,491,874.90, identified as proceeds of crime, into the ICPC's designated recovery account, and the court subsequently ordered

the forfeiture of this sum to the Federal Government.

At the arraignment held before Hon. Justice Ijelu of the Ikeja High Court's Criminal Division, the defendant admitted guilt to the amended charges, and the court formally convicted him.

In lieu of imprisonment, the court imposed the agreed non-custodial sanctions, reinforcing the Commission's preference for alternative sentencing where appropriate and restorative actions have been taken.

Additionally, Mr. Ogunyemi submitted a written undertaking to the ICPC, pledging to maintain lawful conduct henceforth.

The ICPC's prosecution team was led by Mrs. Yvonne William-Mbata, supported by Mrs. Roseline Eze and Mrs. Oluwayemisi Pereira, while Mr. Kehinde Adeleke represented the defendant.

This conviction underscores ICPC's unwavering commitment to promoting integrity in public service and ensuring accountability among public officials.

ICPC Jumps to 3rd Place in Transparency Ranking, Marks Historic Leap in Integrity Score

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has recorded a remarkable milestone in institutional transparency, ranking 3rd position out of over 500 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) assessed in the 2025 Transparency and Integrity Index released by the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI).

According to the report released ICPC achieved an impressive 78.13% score, placing it among the top three most transparent and accountable government institutions in Nigeria.

This performance represents a historic leap for ICPC, which had ranked 19th position in the 2024 Index with a score of just 24%.

The dramatic rise of over 50 percentage points highlights the Commission's strengthened internal systems, proactive information disclosure, and commitment to openness in line with global standards of accountability.

The Transparency and Integrity Index measures institutional compliance across five key variables: Fiscal Transparency,

Open Procurement, Human Resource and Inclusion, Control of Corruption, and Citizens' Engagement.

ICPC's strong showing across these areas demonstrates the Commission's resolve to



lead by example in Nigeria's anti-corruption drive.

Observers note that this leap sends a powerful message about institutional reforms, accountability, and the Commission's renewed commitment to building public trust.

With this development, ICPC has set a new benchmark for transparency among Nigeria's public institutions, further cementing its role as the nation's foremost anti-corruption agency.

In his remarks, the Director-General of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), Dr. Dasuki Ibrahim Arabi, described the Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) as a vital instrument for entrenching accountability and good governance in Nigeria's public institutions.

He noted that the assessment has, over the years, provided a benchmark for reforms that strengthen governance and improve service delivery.

According to him, the 2025 edition of the Index, jointly conducted with the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI), is aligned with the National Strategy for Public Service Reforms (NSPSR 2021–2025), the Freedom of Information Act, and Nigeria's commitments under the Open Government Partnership.

Dr. Arabi emphasized that the Index is more than numbers or rankings, but about building a culture of openness and responsibility that fosters public trust.

ICPC Arraigns 'Civil Servant' for Forgery, Manipulation of IPPIS Platform

By: Nene Okoronkwo

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned one Mrs. Moses Oluwafunmilayo Esther for allegedly forging her letter of posting and unlawfully manipulating the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS) to receive salaries while under suspension.

Mrs. Esther was arraigned before Justice Yusuf Halilu of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Maitama, on a three-count charge filed by the ICPC.

According to the Commission, the defendant allegedly forged a letter of posting dated 20th January 1998, with Reference No. HCSF/CMO/EMD/AOD/013/1/30, purportedly issued by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation.

ICPC investigations further revealed that the posting instruction, gazette, appointment letter, and confirmation letter submitted by Mrs. Esther, who held the position of Principal Administrative Officer in the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, were all falsified. Verification by the Federal Civil Service Commission confirmed that no such records existed in its database.

Additionally, the defendant reportedly failed to honour an invitation from a committee established by the Head of Service to investigate the alleged fake posting. This failure led to the suspension of her salary in November 2021, pending the outcome of the investigation.

However, it was later discovered that Mrs. Esther, who had access as a role player on the IPPIS platform, illegally restored her salary in January 2022 without obtaining approval from the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.

Count One of the charge reads: "That you, Oluwafunmilayo Esther (F), on or about 2021 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to commit

fraud, did forge a document to wit: a posting letter dated 17th June 2021, with Reference No. HCSF/CMO/EMD/002/S.12/T.4.110, purportedly emanating from the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, bearing your name, Moses Oluwafunmilayo Esther, and six (6) others; and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 364 of the Penal Code Laws of the FCT."

When the charges were read, the defendant pleaded "not guilty."

Her counsel, Mr. Chima Okason, prayed the court to grant her bail on liberal terms. The application was not opposed by ICPC's

counsel, Mrs. Olubunmi Ayo.

Honourable Justice Halilu granted bail under the following conditions: the defendant must produce two credible sureties, each of whom must be a director in the federal civil service and currently serving in any parastatal within the FCT. The sureties must present evidence of their first and most recent promotions, which will be verified by the court registrar. They must also provide a written undertaking that, should the defendant jump bail, they will be remanded in custody in her place.

The Presiding Judge subsequently adjourned proceedings for the commencement of the trial.

Ex-Naval Chief Still on Wanted List, Not Exonerated - ICPC

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has declared that the Ex-Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Jibrin Usman (Rtd.), and Brigadier-General Ishaya Bauka are still on the Commission's wanted list for their alleged involvement in a N3bn fraud.

The ICPC, in a statement by its spokesperson, Demola Bakare, fsi, stated that the claim that the amended charges by ICPC have exonerated the duo of charges concerning embezzlement and abuse of office is fallacious and a figment of the imagination of the writers; and as such should be disregarded.

"It should be clearly stated that there is a subsisting arrest warrant against the two ex-military officers; whoever sees them could assist in bringing them to justice.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the charges against them were only amended, not withdrawn. ICPC does not clear anybody of a case already in court. It is a normal practice for prosecuting agencies to amend charges and proceed against the available defendants in a case pending when those at large or on court bench warrants would be arrested.

When those at large or court bench warrants are arrested, they would be added to manifest the initial charge.

"It should also be recalled that the ex-Naval chief, in particular, was charged along with five others in the original charge dated and filed on the 17th day of April, 2023. The charges were served on the Defendants by substituted means through their lawyers, yet they failed to submit themselves to the jurisdiction of the Court for arraignment. Prompted by the Defendants' refusal to come to court for their arraignment, the Commission sought and obtained a bench warrant from the trial court for their arrest.

"On the 4th day of February 2025, Mr. Adam Imam Yusuf, the 2nd Defendant in the original charge, was arrested in his home in Gwagwalada Area Council of the FCT, Abuja, leaving the two ex-military generals yet to be arrested. Efforts are still underway by the Commission to pick them.

"The public is hereby assured that if they are arrested today, the ongoing charges will be amended to accommodate the allegations initially filed against them." The statement read.

ICPC Launches Comprehensive Investigation into Discrepancies in Student Loan Disbursement

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has commenced a comprehensive investigation into alleged discrepancies surrounding the disbursement of student loans under the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND).

This action follows a recent media report alleging that no fewer than 51 tertiary institutions were implicated in illegal deductions and exploitation related to the NELFUND scheme.

These institutions were alleged to have made unauthorised deductions ranging from N3,500 to N30,000 from each student's institutional fees received through the loan fund.

Open source revealed significant gaps in the financial disbursement process, alleging that while the federal government reportedly released N100 billion for the scheme, only N28.8 billion was disbursed to students, leaving an unaccounted sum of N71.2 billion.

The Commission confirmed that its Chairman's Special Task Force immediately swung into action upon receiving the report. Letters of investigation and invitations were dispatched to key stakeholders, including the Director General of the Budget Office, the Accountant General of the Federation, and senior officials from the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Additionally, the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of NELFUND were invited to provide documentation and explanations relevant to the case. According to the Commission, the responses received were critically analysed, and interviews were conducted with the concerned individuals.

According to the ICPC, the strength of its investigation revealed that the total money received by NELFUND as of March 19, 2024, was N203.8 billion.

"The breakdown showed that N10 Billion was an allocation from the Federation Allocation Account Committee, N50 billion was from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, N71.9B was from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, while another N71.9 billion was also from the

same Tertiary Education Trust Fund."

ICPC, however, found that the total amount disbursed to institutions from inception to date is about N44, 200,933,649.00, while a total of 299 institutions have benefited from the funds released.

To date, the total amount disbursed to 299 beneficiary institutions stands at approximately N44.2 billion, with 293,178

students having benefited from the fund.

The ICPC confirmed that a clear case of discrepancies has not been established in the administration of the student loan scheme and announced that its investigation will now extend to beneficiary institutions and individual student recipients.

Further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.

ICPC Re-arraigns Prof. Godwin Ojo Igbinoba for Degree Peddling and Forgery

By Kingsley A. Luka

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has re-arraigned Professor Godwin Ojo Igbinoba before Honourable Justice A. N. Erhabor of Criminal Court 1, Benin City, High Court of Edo State, on a three-count charge related to degree peddling



and forgery.

The first count accuses Professor Igbinoba of unlawfully awarding academic degrees to members of the public through the Association of Professional Examination Board and the Association of Corporate of Chartered Secretaries, Benin City.

He was alleged to have issued Bachelor of Science Degrees and National Diplomas without the necessary approvals from the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Board for Technical Education, or the National Universities Commission.

The second charge pertains to forgery, in violation of Section 465 of the Criminal Code Act and punishable under Section 467 of the same Act. Professor Igbinoba is accused of forging a National Youth Service Exemption Certificate, dated March 12, 2018, which was presented to one Mr. Osian Jude Tony.

The third count alleges that the defendant obtained money under false pretenses, contrary to and punishable under Section 419

of the Criminal Code Act. He purportedly misled unsuspecting Nigerians into believing that the Associated Professional Examination Board and the Association of Corporate of Chartered Secretaries offered accredited educational programs leading to recognised qualifications. As a result, students reportedly paid tuition fees into various bank accounts linked to the institution.

One of the charges reads: "That you, Prof. Godwin (M), sometime between October 2007 and March 2018, at the Association of Professional Examination Board and Association of Corporation of Chartered Secretaries, located at 144 Ikpoba Slope, Benin City, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, falsely assumed authority to award school certificates, Bachelor of Science Degrees, and National Diplomas when the institution did not have the approval of the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Board for Technical Education, or the accreditation of the National Universities Commission to conduct courses, offer certifications, or grant degrees."

When the matter was revisited recently, the defendant appeared in court in person, represented by legal counsel P. E. Chukwu (Mrs.), while D. N. Okoro from the ICPC Legal Unit, Edo State Office, prosecuted the case.

The court was informed that the defendant had previously been arraigned before Honourable Justice Efe Ikponmwonba. However, following a reassignment of the case to Honourable Justice Erhabor, the proceedings had to commence afresh.

Professor Igbinoba retook his plea and pleaded not guilty to all charges. The defence counsel requested that the bail conditions previously granted to the defendant remain in effect, a motion which the court granted.

The case has been adjourned for hearing.

Former Foreign Affairs Deputy Director in Court for Alleged Diversion of Funds

By Khadijah Aminu-Ibrahim

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mrs. Christiana Goka, a former Deputy Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on allegations of misappropriating public funds amounting to Five Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Six Naira (N5,398,656).

Mrs. Goka, who also served as the Head of the Department of Research Monitoring Information System at the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), was brought before Justice J.A. Aina of the Federal Capital Territory High Court in Kwali, Abuja, on a five-count charge bordering on misappropriation of funds and providing false statements.

According to the charges, Mrs. Goka allegedly misappropriated N5, 164,656 from funds earmarked for a botched management retreat of the Ministry at Dutse, Jigawa State, in 2017.

Additionally, Mrs. Goka is accused of providing false information to an ICPC investigator, denying the receipt of N1,000,000 in cash, which was reportedly returned to her on the instruction of the then-Director General of DTCA, the late Ambassador Abduljalil Suleiman.

One of the charges reads: "That you, Mrs. Christiana Goka 'F', sometime in 2017 or thereabout, being a public officer serving as the Deputy Director and Head of the Department of Research Monitoring Information System at the Directorate of

Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Garki, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, did confer a corrupt advantage upon yourself in the sum of N5,164,656.00 (Five Million One Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-Six Naira), which was

Offences Commission while in the course of exercising his duties of investigation, in which you made a statement to wit – that the sum of N1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) returned to you in cash by one Bassey Ikpeme on the instruction of the then Director General of DTCA, Ambassador Abduljalil Suleiman (now late) was false and never happened, which statement to your knowledge is false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 25(1)(a) and punishable under Section 25(1)(b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000."

At the commencement of the trial on March 27, 2025, the prosecution counsel, David Nwaze, called two witnesses who testified and were cross-examined.

The alleged act constitutes an offence under Section 25(1)(a) and is punishable under Section 25(1)(b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

The Court, having previously granted the Defendant bail under the same conditions as her administrative bail, allowed her to remain on those terms after she pleaded not guilty to all charges when they were read to her.

As part of the bail conditions, the Defendant must provide a surety who is employed in the Federal Republic of Nigeria at Grade Level 15 or above and resides in Abuja. The surety is required to submit a letter of appointment, proof of last promotion, an identity card, and a passport photograph.

Justice J.A. Aina subsequently adjourned for continuation of trial.



part of the larger sum of N5,398,656.00 (Five Million Three Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-Six Naira) meant for the Botched Management Retreat at Dutse, Jigawa State in 2017, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000."

"That you, Mrs. Christiana Goka 'F', sometimes in 2017 or thereabout, being a public officer serving as the Deputy Director and Head of Department Research Monitoring-Information System in the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa ('DTCA'), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Garki Abuja Federal Capital Territory, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court did make a statement on 18/02/22 to Sado Danjuma, an officer of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related

Fake Doctor who used a Certificate of his 'Best Friend' to secure an Appointment in the Ministry of Health Bags a 4-year jail term

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Martins Ugwu, who impersonated and used the certificate of his 'best friend' to secure a job at the Federal Ministry of Health.

ICPC, in February 2016, filed a 7-count charge before Justice Abubakar Idris Kutigi, against Ugwu, for making false statements to the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, through which he secured employment in the Federal Ministry of Health in 2006.

The Commission said the offence contravened Section 25 (1)(a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Act, 2000 and was punishable under Section 25 (1) (b) of the same act.

The Convict, according to the ICPC, also drew salaries and allowances up to N17.2 million between 2006 and 2016, after working for about ten years as a medical doctor at the Federal Ministry of Health with fake documents.

Ugwu also used the fake documents to procure a staff identity card bearing the name of Dr. George Daniel Davidson, apply for annual leave, as well as a postgraduate training programme, which would have conferred on him a Master's degree in the Field of Epidemiology Practice.

During the sentence hearing at the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Jabi, Counsel to the ICPC, Dr. Osuobeni Ekoi Akpomisingha, citing Section 319 and 321 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), urged the court to order the restitution of all money the culprit earned while he was parading himself as Dr. David George with a stolen certificate.

Delivering his judgment, Justice Kutigi stated that the issue of quack doctors has taken a new dimension, and the sentencing of Ugwu would serve as a deterrent to others who might want to venture into the practice without the necessary certifications.

The Judge therefore sentenced the fake doctor to a jail term of 6 months (consecutively) on each of the 7 counts preferred against him by the ICPC.

Justice Kutigi also ordered the restitution of the salaries and allowances paid to the convict while under the employment of the Federal Ministry of Health. He added that an additional one-year jail term should be served in case the convict failed to meet the restitution order.

ICPC Arraigns Former Kebbi LG Administrator, Finance Director over Alleged N54 Million Fraud

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned the former Sole Administrator of Sakaba Local Government Area in Kebbi State, Abubakar Bawa Makuku, alongside his Director of Finance and

thereabout, at Sakaba Local Government Area of Kebbi State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while serving as Director of Finance & Supply, withdrew a total of N54,000,000.00 (Fifty-Four Million Naira) from the Sakaba Local Government bank account at First Bank Nigeria Plc in six tranches of N9,000,000.00 each, with the intent to avoid the legal duty of reporting the said sum. You thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 19(1)(c) and punishable under Section 19(2)(b) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022."

Another charge against Makuku states: "That you, Abubakar Bawa Makuku, in May 2016 or

thereabout, at Sakaba Local Government Area of Kebbi State, while serving as Sole Administrator, used your office to confer corrupt advantage upon yourself by receiving N10,000,000.00 (Ten Million Naira) in cash from the Finance and Supply office of Sakaba Local Government. The funds were designated for official government activities but were not utilised for their intended purpose. You thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000."

At the arraignment, the two defendants pleaded not guilty to all the charges preferred against them by the ICPC. Prosecuting counsel Hamza Sani informed the court of ICPC's readiness to proceed with the trial and urged the court to fix a clear date for commencement. Defence counsel J.D. Adeyemi moved for bail on behalf of the defendants, which was not opposed by the prosecution.



Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, Chairman, ICPC

Supply, Ahmed Abdullahi Fakai, over an alleged N54 million contract fraud.

The duo was docked before Justice E. Gakko of the Federal High Court sitting in Birnin-Kebbi. The ICPC charged them with abuse of office, fraudulent contract awards, and financial misconduct.

According to the three-count charge, Ahmed Abdullahi Fakai was accused of unlawfully withdrawing N54 million in cash from the coffers of Sakaba Local Government in six tranches of N9 million each, allegedly in an attempt to circumvent financial reporting protocols.

The second defendant, Abubakar Bawa Makuku, allegedly enriched himself with N10 million, reportedly diverted from funds earmarked for official engagements in the local government. He was also accused of awarding contracts without following due process.

One of the charges reads: "That you, Ahmed Abdullahi Fakai, in June 2016 or

ICPC Drags Man to Court for Forging UNIABUJA Degree and NYSC Certificates

By Comfort Emmanuel

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mr. Baba Kudu Mohammed for allegedly forging a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Abuja and a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) exemption certificate.

Mr. Mohammed was presented before Honourable Justice A.Y. Shafa of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, No. 45, sitting in Nyanya, on a four-count charge of forgery. The ICPC accused him of presenting the alleged forged certificates to the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) to secure employment with the agency.

One of the counts contained in the charge read: "That you BABA KUDU MOHAMMED (M) sometime in August 2010 or thereabout at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession a forged Letter of Exemption from National Service bearing your name with identification



number NYSC/CMD/LT, No. 201201201 and serial number 15440 purportedly issued by the National Youth Service Corps Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 368 of the Penal Code Act, Cap 53, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004".

Mr. Mohammed pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The prosecution counsel, Mr. Hamza Sani, informed the court that the ICPC was prepared to proceed, as he had two witnesses present to support the case.

Counsel for the defendant, Mr. M.E. Abubakar, applied for bail on behalf of Mr. Mohammed, which the prosecution counsel did not oppose. The court granted bail under specified conditions, and the case has been adjourned for commencement of hearings.

ICPC Case: Court Convicts Lagos Airport Supervisor for Diversion of N11 Million Missing Fund

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Mohammed Idris, a supervisor at the Hajj and cargo terminal gate of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, for making false returns and corrupt self-advantage.

In a case brought before Justice O.A. Fadipe of the Ikeja Special Offences Court, ICPC revealed how the accused collected missing monies in the course of his work but could not

account for them.

In a two-count charge, ICPC counsel, Yvonne Williams-Mbata, led evidence before the court on how the investigation uncovered a total loss of Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand Naira (N11,234,000) under the defendant's supervision and watch between February 2001 and April 2021.

His offence is contrary to Sections 26(1)(b) and Section 25(1) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

Justice O.A. Fadipe, in her ruling, sentenced the accused to one year's imprisonment on each count in lieu of a fine of N1,000,000 for both counts. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Additionally, the defendant is required to be of good behaviour and enter a bond with the registry of the High Court for Two Million Naira (N2,000,000). Failure to comply with these terms will result in a further imprisonment of ten (10) years.

ICPC Arraigns Suspended Rural Electrification Agency's Executive Director, One other for 15 million Naira Contract Fraud

By Onoolapo Abodunde

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mr. Netufo Olaniyi Alaba, the suspended Executive Director of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and Mr. Hassan Arivi Saddiq, Managing Director, Hassino Group Limited, for their alleged involvement in a 15 million Naira (15,000,000) contract fraud.

Mr. Alaba, who is the first defendant and Mr. Saddiq, the second defendant, appeared before Justice Celestine Obinna of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Maitama, Abuja, on charges, bordering on currying favour and conferring unfair advantage through office, amongst other corruption charges.

It would be recalled that the Presidency had last year approved the indefinite suspension of certain senior figures at REA, including Mr. Alaba, over a N1.2 billion fraud.

One of the charges reads: "That you, Netufo Olaniyi Alaba between September and October, 2022 or

thercabouts at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja whilst being Executive Director of Rural Electrification Agency (REA) did use your office to confer corrupt advantage upon yourself by receiving the sum of (15,000,000) Fifteen Million Naira from Hassan Arivi Saddiq to show favour to the said Hassan Arivi Saddiq that is facilitating contract jobs/businesses for him at the Federal Ministry of Power and other Organizations and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000."

Another charge reads: "That you Hassan Arivi Saddiq (m) between September and October, 2022 or thercabouts at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja whilst being MD Hassino Group Limited did corruptly give the sum of (N10,000,000) Ten Million Naira to Netufo Olaniyi Alaba vide his First Bank Account No: 2005009459 on account of showing you favour that is facilitating contract jobs/businesses at the Federal Ministry of Power and other Organization and you thereby committed an offence

contrary to and punishable under section 9 (a) an punishable under section 9 (b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Relate Offences Act, 2000."

Mr. Alaba and Mr. Saddiq pleaded not guilty to all charges. Counsel to both defendants, Myson N and S. Yusuf, applied to the court to grant bail to their clients on liberal terms, seeing "as they did not pose any flight risks and were capable of providing credible sureties."

While ICPC's counsel, Abdulkareem Sulaiman, did not oppose their bail applications, he did, however implore the court to grant bail under stringent conditions to ensure that no attempt to slow the judicial process was made by the defendants.

Justice Obinna set bail at 50 million naira each, provided they produced a credible surety who is a civil servant not below Grade Level 10 with a verifiable address within the FCT High Court's jurisdiction.

The presiding judge subsequently adjourned the case to the 4th of April, 2025, for further hearing.

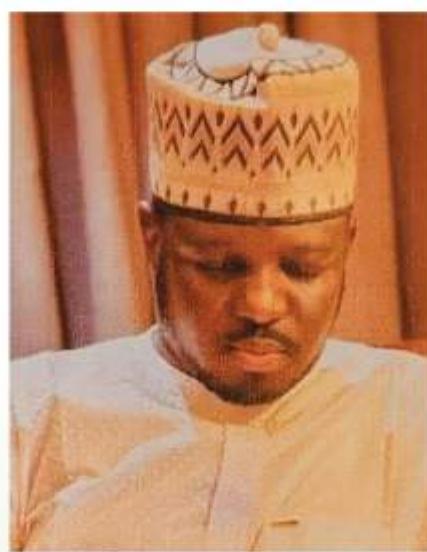
individuals.

In one instance, he reportedly obtained \$3,300 and 1,620 Saudi Riyals from two victims under the guise of being a Presidential and Vice-Presidential aide.

Further findings indicated that Mr. Kabir specialized in obtaining money and goods under false pretences, often exploiting opportunities related to international religious travels.

During one such trip to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, he was said to have borrowed 11,000 Saudi Riyals from a fellow traveller and later sent a forged bank receipt as proof of repayment. He also allegedly issued a fake transfer receipt of N3.2 million to a travel agent who had arranged flight, hotel, and train bookings on his behalf.

Meanwhile, charges have been file against the suspect, and he will soon be arraigned before a competent court of law as soon as the case is assigned.



well as members of the National Assembly, to defraud unsuspecting

ICPC to Prosecute 'Journalist', Alkazim Kabir over Alleged 14M Fraud

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is set to prosecute one Mr. Alkazim Kabir, also known as 'Abbatis Kabir Abuwa', a self-acclaimed journalist based in Kano, over alleged involvement in multiple fraudulent activities amounting to about N14 million.

The decision to charge Mr. Kabir followed a series of petitions received by the Commission, accusing him of persistent acts of fraud, false representation, and impersonation of public officials.

Investigations by ICPC revealed that the suspect had allegedly impersonated various public figures, including aides to the President and Vice President, as

ICPC, Ugandan Government Explore Collaboration on Constituency Projects

By Onoolapo Abedunde



Honourable Remigio Achia, Vice Chairman of Uganda's Parliamentary Budget Committee, and the ICPC Secretary, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Oparaodu, DSSRS

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the government of Uganda have initiated discussions on potential collaboration in Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking (CEPT).

This development emerged when the ICPC hosted Uganda's Parliamentary Budget Committee members on a study visit at its headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking at the event, ICPC Chairman Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, represented by the Commission's Secretary, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Oparaodu, DSSRS, emphasised the importance of project tracking in ensuring transparency, accountability, and the effective delivery of democratic dividends.

The ICPC Boss highlighted the Commission's leadership in tracking constituency and executive projects

in Nigeria, adding that significant recoveries and achievements have been made in the fight against corruption since the initiative's inception.

"Project tracking requires expertise, especially in Africa, where community-based projects are often hijacked by individuals. It is a critical area of concern, and we welcome collaboration to share insights and best practices," he stressed.

The ICPC Chairman, who encouraged the Ugandan delegation to maximise their visit as ICPC experts were available to guide them through its project tracking mechanisms, expressed hope that Uganda might adopt a similar initiative. "By the end of your study visit, we hope you can replicate our approach to suit the governance structure in your country," he said.

Honourable Remigio Achia, Vice Chairman of Uganda's Parliamentary

Budget Committee and leader of the delegation, stated that their visit was part of their studies at the Nigerian Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS).

Mr. Achia, while acknowledging ICPC's notable achievements in project tracking, expressed keen interest in learning how Uganda could ensure its citizens benefit from constituency projects.

"Although constituency project funds were previously removed from Uganda's budget, we are now on the verge of restoring them. It is crucial to study ICPC's approach to prevent funds mismanagement," he remarked.

The visit concluded with a presentation by Mr. Jimoh Oladapo Sulahiman, Deputy Director and Head of Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Initiative (CEPTi) at ICPC, titled 'CEPTi as a Vehicle for Good Governance.'

He detailed Nigeria's constituency project framework, explaining how parliamentarians allocate national budget funds to influence development projects for their constituents.

Mr. Sulahiman also outlined the tracking process, emphasising its role in improving project execution rates across the country.

ICPC Secures 7-Year Jail Term for Civil Defence Officer Over N12.2 Million Employment Scam

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Solomon Ogodo, a Superintendent of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), for his involvement in forgery, employment racketeering and fraud.

The ICPC had, in December 2022, arraigned Mr. Ogodo in charge no: CR/503/2022 before Honourable Justice M.S. Idris of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court Jabi, Abuja, for defrauding unsuspecting job seekers to the tune of Twelve Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira (N12,200,000).

In the 5-count charge, the Commission told the Court how the convict, on different occasions, hoodwinked some members of the public into parting with different sums of money in the guise of securing employment for their relatives in the Nigeria Correctional Services (NCoS).

ICPC's Prosecutor in the case, Mr. Hamza Sani, had, in the course of the trial, led evidence before the court on how Mr. Ogodo



The convict, Mr. Solomon Ogodo

forged offers of provisional appointments for some applicants into the Nigeria Correctional Services.

His actions are contrary to Section 13 and punishable under Section 68 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000, and contrary to Section 363 and punishable under Section 364 of the Penal Code Act. The actions also violated and are punishable under Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act of 2006.

Shortly before the jail sentence was passed, Counsel to Mr. Ogodo, Mr. A. A. Nwoye, who held brief for Mr. Osita O. Eze, urged the court to convert the jail term to community service for the convict.

The prosecution counsel on his part moved that the court should take cognisance of section 319 (1) a of the Administration of Criminal Justice ACT (ACJA) 2015 to mandate the convict to pay compensation of all the sum collected to the victims of his action.

Justice M.S. Idris, in his judgment, sentenced Mr. Ogodo to seven years imprisonment on counts 1 to 3 (without option of fine) and two months' imprisonment or the option of fine of five thousand naira on count 4. The convict equally bagged two months imprisonment on count 5 of the charge without the option of a fine.

The court also agreed with the submission of the prosecution brought under section 319 (1) of ACJA by ordering the convict to restore all he received from his victims in the course of his illegal action.

ICPC Arraigns Ministry Staff for Money Laundering

By Amina Haruna

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned one Mr. Oseni Adeolu Olayinka, a staff member of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Abuja, on a 3-count money laundering charge.

The accused was arraigned before Honourable Justice Obiora Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja.

In a suit marked FHC/ABJ/CR/584/2024, the Commission accused Olayinka of acquiring millions of naira by including his wife and son on the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS) portal of the Ministry between 2023/2024 and corruptly receiving salaries through his wife's and son's accounts, thereby committing an offence of money laundering.

One of the counts against him reads: "That you Oseni Adeolu Olayinka (M), Executive Officer, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Abuja, between January 2023 and April 2024 or thereabout, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, indirectly took possession of the sum of N2, 843, 524. 41K (Two Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand, Five hundred and Twenty Four Naira, Forty One Kobo) through the Stanbic IBTC Bank account number 0040450514 belonging to your wife, Mrs. Mngohol Christiana Agaku which fund you reasonably ought to have known formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act, to wit: corruption and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022."

Olayinka, however pleaded not guilty to all

the charges read to him.

This made his counsel, Paul Asimiaeokha, move an application for him to be granted bail on very liberal terms, which was not opposed by the prosecution counsel, C.K. Igwedibia.

Ruling on the bail application, Justice Egwuatu committed the defendant to a five million bond with a surety who must be a civil servant not less than grade level 12 in the federal civil service.

Additionally, the presiding judge said that the surety must provide his/her employment and promotion letters and must have a landed property in Abuja, and the same must be verified.

The matter has been adjourned for commencement of trial.

Court Jails UDUTH's Accountant for Diversion of over N60M via GIMFIS

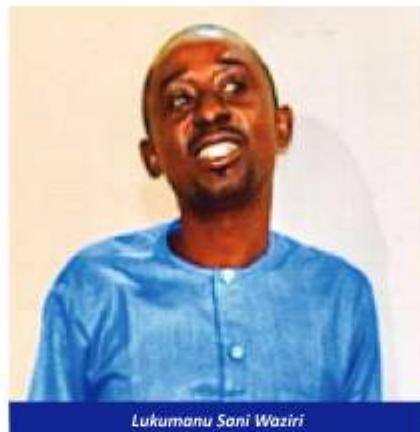
By: Aliyu Abdullahi

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of one Lukumanu Sani Waziri, an accountant at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), Sokoto, for corruption and abuse of office.

Waziri was found guilty of diverting public funds amounting to over sixty million naira through unauthorised access to the Government Integrated Financial Information System (GIMFIS).

ICPC had, in 2021, in a charge number: FHC/ICPC/122021, arraigned Waziri and two others before Honourable Justice M. Abdulgafar of the Federal High Court, Sokoto Division, in a nine-count charge of fraud and corruption.

In the course of the trial, ICPC's Prosecutor, Dr Osuobeni Ekoi Akponimisingha, led evidence before the court on how Waziri, a designated user of GIMFIS in the Teaching Hospital, altered financial records and facilitated the transfer of multimillions of government money into private accounts, including his own and that of one Monday



Lukumanu Sani Waziri

Michael Adejo.

Waziri was also said to have, without authorisation, changed the bank account details meant for state taxes of Kogi, Edo, Bauchi, and Zamfara States to that of Monday Adejo Michael, where the taxes due to the aforementioned States were fraudulently diverted.

One of the counts against him read: "That you LUKUMANU SANI WAZIRI (M) and Monday Michael Adejo (M) sometime in April 2020 or thereabout, conspired amongst yourselves to take possession of the sums of N6,127,465.75, N8,552,824.60 and 5,939,666.49 totaling N20,619,956.8 (Twenty Million, Six Hundred and

Nineteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six Naira, Eight Kobo) from the Government Integrated Financial Information System into the First Bank Account of Monday Michael Adejo with account number: 30142906334 on the prompting of Lukumanu Sani WAZIRI, which reasonably ought to have known that such funds form part of the proceeds of an unlawful act, namely: corruption and fraud and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Sections 18 and 15 (1) (d) and punishable under Section 15 (3) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2011 (as amended)"

In his judgment on Friday, Justice Abdulgafar found Mr. Waziri guilty of seven out of the nine-count charge levelled against him.

The court thereafter sentenced the convict as follows: "one-year imprisonment or a fine of ₦200,000 each on Counts 1 and 2; one-year imprisonment each on Counts 3, 4, and 5 without the option of a fine; and three years' imprisonment or a fine of ₦500,000 each on Counts 8 and 9.

The sentences are to run concurrently.

By Comfort Emmanuel

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mr. Ekoh Justin Okezie on multiple charges, including forgery and providing false information to an officer of the Commission.

Mr. Okezie appeared before Honourable Justice N.K. Nwosue-Iheme at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Wuse Zone 2. He faces a nine-count charge, including possession of a counterfeit "Offer of Temporary Appointment" letter and an unofficial document purporting to be an appointment letter to the Federal Civil Service of Nigeria.

He was also accused of unlawfully receiving multiple salary payments from the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture by

ICPC Charges Man to Court for Forgery

falsely representing himself as a legitimate staff member of the ministry.

One of the charges against him states: "That you, Ekoh Justin Okezie, sometime between January and December 2020, in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained by false pretence the sum of ₦638,993.72 (Six Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three Naira, Seventy-Two Kobo) as twelve (12) months' salary, purportedly as a staff of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture".

The charge sheet read that, "a pretence you knew to be false, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the

Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006."

Mr. Okezie pleaded not guilty to all nine charges. His counsel, Mr. E.D. Imo, filed a bail application, which was not opposed by the prosecuting counsel, Mr. Henry Emore of the ICPC.

After listening to the argument of both Counsel, the presiding judge, Justice Nwosue-Iheme, granted bail to the accused person under specific conditions, including but not limited to requiring Mr. Okezie to present a credible surety with a permanent residence in Abuja and to post a bond of ₦5 million.

The Presiding Judge later adjourned the case for further proceedings.

ICPC Arraigns Provost, Lecturer for Certificate Forgery in Sokoto

By: Aliyu Abdullahi

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Hauwa'u Gimbiya Mukhtar Abdulkarim, the serving Provost of the Federal College of Education (Technical) (FCET), Gusau, alongside Abdullahi Boyi, a lecturer with the Sokoto State College of Education (SSCE), Sokoto, on alleged certificate forgery.

The duo was arraigned on a six-count charge, registered as charge No. SS/213c/2024, before Hon. Justice Muhammad Aliyu Sambo at the Sokoto State High Court.

ICPC accused the two defendants of forging an appointment letter and subsequent use of the same for application for the position of Provost at the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, Zamfara State.

They were also accused of making false statements to the officers of the ICPC in the

course of investigation, which is an offence under Section 25(1) (a) and punishable under Section 25 (ii) (b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

Count one of the charge reads: "That you Hauwa'u Gimbiya Mukhtar Abdulkarim (F) and Abdullahi Boyi (M) sometimes in the year 2023 or thereabout at Sokoto within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired to do an illegal act to wit: forgery of a letter of "Notification for Appointment" to the Post of Chief Lecturer on COMPCASS 14 with effect from 1st January, 2017 and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 59(1) and punishable under section 60(2) of the Sokoto State Penal Code Law, 2019."

Both defendants, however, pleaded 'not guilty' to all six charges when read to them by the Court's Registrar.

Counsel for the defendants, Dr. Muhammad Mansur Aliyu and Mr. M.S Diri SAN,

respectively, moved for applications for bail on behalf of their clients.

They requested the court to consider reasonable terms for bail, citing the defendants' "established positions and cooperation during the investigation."

Counsel to the ICPC, Mr. Suleiman Ahmad, did not oppose the bail applications.

Hon. Justice Sambo, after considering the applications, granted bail under specific conditions designed to ensure the defendants' continued presence throughout the trial proceedings.

The bail conditions require each defendant to provide two sureties who are permanent residents of Sokoto State, with each surety signing a bond of one million naira (₦1,000,000).

Following the granting of bail, the ICPC prosecutor requested a date for trial to commence, emphasising the Commission's preparedness to present witnesses and evidence in support of the charges.

Hon. Justice Sambo thereafter adjourned the matter to allow the prosecution to call witnesses and introduce material evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Anti-Graft War: ICPC Arraigns NSITF Staff in Court for Alleged Forgery

By Sela Abana

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned one Tiemo Joy Alabogha on a 6-count charge of forgery, intent to commit fraud and making of false statement, amongst other misconducts.

The defendant, who is a member of staff of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), was arraigned before Honourable Justice Ogbonaya of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Zuba.

Alabogha was accused of producing and presenting a forged Bachelor of Education certificate from the University of Calabar (UNICAL) to NSITF, knowing fully well that it was not genuine. She was therefore deemed to have committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 364



of the Penal Code, Laws of the FCT.

The accused was further arraigned for presenting a letter of certificate of confirmation, supposedly emanating from UNICAL, which confirmed that the falsified certificate of education was genuine.

This, according to the charge sheet read, contravened Section 25(1)(a) and was punishable under Section 68 of the Corrupt

Practices and other Related Offences Act 2000.

The defence counsel, meanwhile, urged the Court to grant bail to the Defendant, to which prosecuting counsel, Aniekam Ekong, did not oppose the application.

Ekong, however, urged that "should the Court be minded to grant bail to the defendant, it should be on such terms and conditions that will guarantee the availability of the defendant for trial."

The trial judge ordered that the defendant be remanded at the Suleja Custodial Facility pending a ruling on her bail application.

The matter was further adjourned for the hearing of the substantive case.

ICPC arraigns former Registrar of Benue State School of Health Technology for Admission Racketeering

By Mary Atabo

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned in court the former Registrar of Benue State School of Health Technology, Agasa, Mr. Awuawe Terwase Clement, over an alleged N4.4 million admission racketeering.

Mr. Tervase was arraigned by the ICPC before Justice Egbe Joshua Raphael of the Federal High Court 2 Makurdi for allegedly collecting and diverting the sum of Four Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (4,466,500) paid by unsuspecting admission seekers into the institution.

He was said to have collected the alleged sum after the sale of admission forms had been closed by the institution for the year.

The former Registrar, in a three-count charge preferred against him by the ICPC, was also accused of making a false statement to the

officers of the Commission in the course of investigation, which is an offence under Section 25(1) (a) and punishable under Section 25 (ii) (b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

Count One against the defendant reads: "That you, AWUAWE TERWASE CLEMENT (m) between 2018 and 2019 at Guma Local Government Area of Benue State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court while being a Public Officer as the Registrar of School of Health Technology Agasha used your position to confer corrupt advantage upon yourself by collecting a total sum of N4,476,500(Four Million Four Hundred and Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred Naira) when you continued to sell admission forms to unsuspecting prospective students after the closure of sales for your personal use and therefore committed an offence punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000."

Mr. Tervase, however, pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him.

In the light of the 'not guilty' plea, counsel to the defendant, Mr. Kelvin Iorzena moved an application for bail on behalf of his client.

The Prosecution counsel, Mr. T. S Lorngee, on his part, did not oppose the bail application moved by the counsel to the defendant.

The presiding judge, Justice Egbe Joshua Raphael, thereafter granted the defendant bail for two million Naira (2,000,000) and one surety in like sum.

The judge added that "the surety shall be a Public or Civil Servant, either at the Federal or State. The Surety shall deposit photocopies of the letter of first Appointment and last promotion, Identity Card, Passport photographs and shall swear to an affidavit of means and address."

The matter was thereafter adjourned for hearing.

ICPC Arraigns Dismissed NECO Staff over Alleged Certificate Forgery

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mrs. Rose Deffi, a former employee of the National Examination Council (NECO), who was dismissed over allegations of certificate forgery.

The trial was first scheduled for May 30, 2024, before Honourable Justice G.D. Fwomyon at the Plateau State High Court, but was stalled due to the defendant's absence.

The court ruled that Mrs. Deffi should be served the charge sheet through substituted means and be produced in court by her lawyer at the next hearing.

When the case was called, Mrs. Deffi, who was present in the court, pleaded not



guilty to all seven counts of forgery against her.

In light of her plea, the ICPC counsel, Mr. O.G. Iwuagwu, requested another date for the trial's commencement, while the defence counsel, Mr. P.M. Lere, did not oppose this but asked the court to consider the bail application for his client.

The ICPC Counsel, Mr. Iwuagwu, did not oppose the bail application but requested the court to set conditions ensuring the defendant's availability for trial.

The Presiding Judge, Justice Fwomyon, after listening to the arguments of both Counsel, granted Mrs. Deffi bail at N2 million with two sureties of the same amount, and he adjourned the case till September 26, 2024, for commencement of trial.

In 2020, NECO conducted a nationwide certificate verification exercise, resulting in 89 staff members being indicted for using fake certificates.

The Council's Governing Board subsequently approved their dismissals and referred their cases to the ICPC and the Nigerian Police for prosecution.

ICPC Takes Ministry of Labour Official to Court for Job Racketeering

By Innocent Macaulay

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Takat Williams Sabo, an officer of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, over allegations of job racketeering.

Sabo was brought before Justice S. M. Mayana of the Federal Capital Territory High Court 43 in Apo, Abuja, under charge number CR/496/2024.

He faces a two-count charge for allegedly defrauding a job seeker of ₦800,000 under the pretence of securing employment in the Federal Civil Service Commission.

According to ICPC counsel Agbili Ezenwa Kingsley, Sabo fraudulently obtained the money from his victim, John Daniel, by falsely promising him a government job.

The charges against him read: "That

you, Takat Williams Sabo (M), sometime in June 2021, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while serving as a public officer at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, accepted ₦800,000 as gratification from John Daniel for recruitment into the Federal Civil Service Commission.

Sabo however pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him. His counsel, O. I. Aneneh, filed a bail application, arguing that his client was willing to attend his trial. The ICPC counsel did not oppose the application but requested strict conditions to ensure the defendant's court attendance.

Justice Mayana granted bail for ₦20 million, requiring two sureties who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and provide affidavits proving a legitimate source of livelihood.

The case was adjourned for the commencement of trial.

Corruption Alerts: 3 Staff of Ekiti State Teaching Hospital Charged for Forgery

By Auwal Ndarabi

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned three staff members of Ekiti State Teaching Hospital over allegations of forgery and deceit.

The three staff members, Mr. Fatuiki Adebayo Paul, Mr. Babalola Idris Adebayo, and Mr. Afolayan David Ayodele, were arraigned before Justice Lekan Ogunmoye of the Ekiti State High Court.

ICPC, in a charge number: HAD/02ICPC/2024 arraigned the trio on a six-count charge bordering on forgery of a document contrary to and punishable under Section 467 of the Criminal Code Act Cap C28 LFN 2004, and knowingly and corruptly giving a document with false information with intent to deceive the

principal, contrary and punishable under Section 17(1)(c) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

All three defendants, however, pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them. Counsel for the defendants, Mr. Rotimi Adabembe and Mr. Busayo Sule, separately prayed to the court to grant their clients bail on liberal terms, having entered a not guilty plea.

Counsel to the ICPC, Mr. Kehinde Adetoye, did not oppose the bail applications filed.

Justice Ogunmoye thereafter granted the defendants bail for two million naira and two sureties in like sum, one of whom must hold a directorial position within the Ekiti State Government, and evidence of their residence within the jurisdiction must be confirmed.

The case was further adjourned for hearing.

ICPC Arraigns Abuja-based Businessman over N38m Money Laundering Case

By Nene Okoronkwo

An Abuja-based businessman, Mr. Ijoma Oji Uduma, has been arraigned by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on a two-count charge before Justice M. A. Olajuwon of the Federal High Court, Abuja, for making a cash payment over the legal limit of Five Million Naira (₦5, 000,000) under the Money Laundering Act.

The Defendant was indicted in an alleged Thirty-Eight Million Naira (₦38,000,000) Money Laundering Case for making, amongst other offences, cash payment of Ten Million Naira (₦10,000,000) in three tranches totaling Thirty Million Naira (₦30,000,000), exceeding the amount authorized under Section 2(1)(a) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act in February of 2012.

The alleged offence attracts a penalty of a fine of Ten Million Naira (₦10, 000,000) or imprisonment for a term of at least three years or both. The Defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge, and his Counsel applied for his release on bail in the most liberal terms.

Bail was granted on a bond of Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000) by a responsible surety who is to prove a close relationship with the Defendant, be in the employment of a reputable company, not self-employed and not a civil servant. The surety is to provide his address (occupational and residential) to the court, submit evidence of tax payment in the last three years, two of his recent passport photographs and those of the Defendant.

The Defendant is to be remanded in Kuje Correctional Facility pending the perfection of his bail.

The case has been adjourned for the commencement of trial.

ICPC Case: Court Dismisses Application to Vacate Forfeiture Order in N96 Million Contract Fraud



By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has dismissed an application to vacate a final forfeiture order granted to the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) in a Ninety-Six-million-naira contract fraud.

The ruling was predicated on an application dated and filed on 15th February 2024, asking the court to set aside the interim and final forfeiture orders granted to the ICPC to freeze certain bank accounts believed to have been used to receive the sum of N96 million for contracts that were never executed.

In a case involving former Surveyor-General of the Federation (SGF), Ebisintei Bietoru Awudu, Kumeni Services Limited and Geolev Nigeria Limited, ICPC had in December 2021 and April 2022 secured interim and final forfeiture orders respectively from the Federal High Court over funds believed to be proceeds of crime.

However, the second respondent/applicant (Kumeni Services Limited) challenged the jurisdiction of

the court to hear the matter, just as it argued that ICPC lacked the locus standi to apply for an order of forfeiture.

Delivering her judgment on the application, Justice Evelyn Maha held that the argument of the second respondent/applicant (Kumeni Services Limited) was confusing and unsettling because the originating process filed failed to refer to any extant law or imaginary law that precludes the federal government from applying for a forfeiture order.

"The second respondent applicant did not attach any document before me that the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation did not give consent to the ICPC to file this action for forfeiture. Also, it's common knowledge in law that the AGF is in charge of protecting all the interests of the federal public in Nigeria and any action before any court of law or anything that has to do with any federal government of Nigeria. In that contention, the arguments of the second respondent applicant failed, having not shown in the court, the law that should not allow ICPC to apply under the name of the federal government."

The presiding judge stressed further that ICPC did comply with the publication

order made by the court for anyone affected to show cause why the interim forfeiture order should not be made final.

"And it is clear that the publication order was made by the court. Again, the second applicant is also misleading the court, as my records show that the ICPC complied with the order of publication and the interim. So, in

consequence of the above, it's my finding that the application is lacking in merit and is hereby dismissed by the court."

Justice Maha also frowned at the application that the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the matter saying that was a gross abuse of court process.

"If I had heard that I didn't have jurisdiction, I would have awarded a million-dollar cost. You have to be careful because this is a gross abuse of the court process," the judge warned.

ICPC had in 2019, received a petition from concerned citizens alleging that one (Surveyor Ebisintei Bietoru Awudu), in connivance and collusion with the second respondent/applicant (Kumeni Services Limited) perpetrated fraud at the office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation.

The petition was investigated and the Commission discovered that all the contracts awarded to the 2nd Respondent/Applicant by the 1st Respondent was a conduit pipe for siphoning money belonging to the Federal Government of Nigeria in the form of unexecuted and inflated contracts.

ICPC Arraigns Two over N4.8m Forgery, Fake Job Scam

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned two men, Ibrahim Suleiman Umar and Tijani Adam Goni, before the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Abuja, over their alleged involvement in a N4.8 million job scam and forgery of employment letters.

The defendants were brought before Justice B.M. Bassi on a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy, obtaining by false pretence, and forgery.

According to the charge sheet, the duo, in June 2021, conspired to defraud two unsuspecting job seekers of N4.8 million under the guise of securing employment for them at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

One of the counts reads:

"That you, Ibrahim Suleiman Umar (m) and Tijani Adam Goni (m), on or about the month of June 2021 at Abuja, within the jurisdiction

of this Honourable Court, by false pretences and with intent to defraud, conspired to obtain by false pretences the sum of N4,800,000.00 (Four Million Eight Hundred Thousand Naira) from Saifdeen Yakub and Aminu Abubakar under the pretence that you

the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006."

Investigations by ICPC further revealed that the accused persons forged employment letters purportedly issued by both CBN and FIRS, as well as a document titled "Final Document List", which they presented to their victims as genuine.

Their offences contravene Section 1(1)(a) and are punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006, as well as Sections 363 and 364 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read, both defendants pleaded guilty to all five counts. Justice Bassi consequently ordered their remand at the Kuje Correctional Centre and adjourned the matter to 29th October 2025 for continuation of hearing.

Meanwhile, the first defendant in the case, Mohammed Mustapha, remains at large, with efforts ongoing to apprehend him and bring him before the court to face justice.



will secure employment for them at the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Inland Revenue Service, which representation you knew to be false, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of

Court Remands Two Ministries' Staff over 12 Million Job Racketeering

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences (ICPC), has arraigned the duo of Mrs. Ndubuisi Joy Chineme, a staff member of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, and Mr. Godwin Sabo Takat of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, over allegations bordering on obtaining by false pretence and employment racketeering.

The ICPC in charge N0. CR/243/2024, brought before Honourable Justice C.O. Oba of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court 31, sitting in Apo, Abuja, accused the defendants of defrauding unsuspecting job seekers to the tune of over Twelve Million (N12,000,000) Naira only.

ICPC in a 9-count charge, accused the defendants of jointly obtaining the said amount from their victims by false pretence.

Their actions, according to the Counsel to the ICPC, Mr. Nura Saidu contravened Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006, Section 18 (d) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, and Section 363 of the Penal Code Act, 1990.

One of the counts reads "that you Godwin Sabo Takat (M) between January and June 2018 or thereabouts at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja whilst being a Staff of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing with intent to defraud did induce by pretense Ndubuisi Joy Chineme to confer a benefit on you by paying the sum of (N4,530,000.00K) Four Million, Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand Naira only in your First Bank account for securing employment for unsuspecting job seekers in the Federal Civil Service and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 1 (2) and punishable under section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006."

However, after the counts were read to their hearing, the defendants pleaded not guilty to all the 9-count charges.

Consequently, upon the pleas, the presiding Judge hinted to the counsels involved for an immediate move on to the trial proceeding, but the Prosecuting Counsel pointed out that the matter was slated for only arraignment and that commencement of the hearing would not be possible because some of the documents to be tendered were not readily

available in his domain. To this submission, the defense counsel did not oppose but left it at the discretion of the court.

The Prosecuting counsel requested that the court adjourn the case to allow for adequate preparation for the commencement, which the defence did not oppose.

Counsel to the two defendants, Mr. E.E. Ogar and I.O. Nweze, filed separate bail applications and pleaded with the Judge to admit their clients to bail on very liberal terms pending trials.

Mr. Saidu, counsel to the ICPC, did not object to the bail applications made by the counsels to the defendants.

Justice Oba thereafter admitted the defendants to bail at N2 Million with two sureties for each of them, who (each of the sureties) must have N20 Million in their accounts and 2 landed properties in the FCT, to be verified by the court.

He ordered that the defendants be remanded in Suleja and Kuje Correctional Centres pending the fulfilment of the bail conditions. The Judge later adjourned the case for the commencement of trial.

ICPC Set to Collaborate with Chinese Police in Using Technology to Combat Corruption

By Amina Haruna

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to strengthen its fight against corruption through collaboration with the Chinese Police.

This strategic partnership, which aimed to leverage advanced technologies and expertise to combat various forms of corruption that plague both nations, took place at the boardroom of the ICPC when the Representative of the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Hou Wen Yu, the Counsellor Police Attaché, paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman of the ICPC.

In his welcome remarks, the Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN stated that the ICPC was established in the year 2000, and has been at the forefront of Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts, focusing on investigating and prosecuting corrupt practices across public and private sectors as well as prevention of corruption, public enlightenment, and youth mobilization, stating that Its collaboration with the Chinese Police underscores a commitment to utilizing innovative approaches in tackling corruption, recognizing the global nature of this pervasive issue.

He also pointed out that China, known for its robust technological advancements, would bring a wealth of expertise in utilising cutting-edge tools for law enforcement and surveillance. Adding that by joining forces with Chinese authorities, the ICPC seeks to enhance its capabilities in gathering intelligence, conducting investigations, and prosecuting offenders involved in corrupt



The representative of the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Hou Wen Yu, the Counsellor Police Attaché, and the Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN

activities that cross international boundaries.

The ICPC boss emphasised that technological innovation forms the cornerstone of the collaboration, with both entities expected to exchange knowledge and resources in areas such as data analysis, forensic investigation techniques, and digital surveillance, adding that this exchange promises to equip the ICPC with state-of-the-art tools necessary to track illicit financial flows, identify corrupt practices, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Earlier in his remarks, the Representative of the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria Mr. Hou Wen Yu stated that "the Chinese Police is the mother of law enforcement agencies in China, adding that the partnership was not merely confined to technological

exchange but also encompasses capacity building and training programs which aims to empower ICPC officials with specialized skills and knowledge essential for effectively combating sophisticated forms of corruption that often involve complex networks and financial transactions.

Mr. Hou also stressed that, in addition to technological advancements, the collaboration emphasises the importance of international cooperation in addressing transnational corruption challenges, adding that by fostering strong ties with Chinese law enforcement agencies, the ICPC strengthens its position within the global anti-corruption framework, promoting mutual understanding and shared strategies in combating corruption.

ICPC Case: Court Remands Civil Defense Officer for Failing to Appear for Trial

By: Innocent Macaulay

The A Federal Capital Territory High Court, sitting in Apo, Abuja has ordered the remand of an Officer of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Mr. Jubrin Buba at the custody of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Kuje after failing to appear for trial in the forgery allegations leveled against him by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

Mr. Buba is standing trial for alleged offences bordering on forgery and making a false statement to a public officer.

According to the ICPC, Buba, in February 2015, fraudulently presented a forged

Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree certificate in Public Administration, dated October 7, 2009, which was purportedly issued by the University of Jos, to secure employment with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC).

The use of a forged document as genuine contravenes Section 366 of the Penal Code and is punishable under Section 364.

The accused was initially arraigned in 2022 before Hon. Justice Asma'u Akanbi at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Kubwa and was admitted to bail on liberal terms.

However, following Justice Akanbi's elevation to the Court of Appeal, the case was reassigned for trial *de novo* to Justice

Binta Dogonyaro of FCT High Court 46, Apo.

The court had previously fixed 22nd January 2025 for arraignment, but Buba reportedly failed to appear despite receiving due notice along with his legal counsel.

His continued absence, even after the matter was further adjourned, prompted the issuance of a bench warrant for his arrest.

He was eventually apprehended and arraigned on 26th June 2025.

During the proceeding, the court revoked Mr. Buba's earlier bail and ordered that he be remanded at the Nigeria Correctional Service facility in Kuje.

Nigeria to Exit FATF Grey List Soon, ICPC Chairman Assures

By Onoolapo Abedunde

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has assured Nigerians that the ICPC and other anti-corruption agencies are diligently working to ensure Nigeria's removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List.

Speaking at a recent two-day workshop organized by the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism for law enforcement officers, Dr. Aliyu emphasized the financial and commercial implications of Nigeria's inclusion on the FATF Grey List for businesses operating within the country.

The ICPC Chairman declared emphatically, "The ICPC and other anti-corruption agencies are committed to collaborating to ensure the country's exit from this challenging status."



Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN

Dr. Aliyu explained that the workshop was one of the steps being taken towards finding solutions to ensure that Nigeria was removed from the (FATF) Grey List adding that the workshop initiative aimed at tackling the challenge.

He reassured participants that more of such programs would be organized to meet FATF targets and further develop their capabilities.

The ICPC boss underscored the extensive impact of money laundering on Nigeria's socio-economic situation and stressed that the importance of vibrant and effective action by ICPC officers was required and

urgently needed to tackle the challenge posed by the Grey List on Nigeria.

The Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Clifford Oparaodu, called for collaboration and cooperation among various departments to strengthen the fight against corruption in Nigeria. "It is important that we work as a community, as a team, even though we come from various departments and units. Our challenges can be overcome if we work together," he stated.

It would be recalled that on February 24, 2023, Nigeria was placed on the FATF Grey List due to a rise in capital inflows and deficiencies in combating money laundering, terrorism, and arms financing.

The FATF is an independent intergovernmental organization that promotes policies to protect the global financial system, evaluating jurisdictions based on their Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation (AML/CFT/P) standards.

ICPC, Ministry of Health Invokes Conversations on Corruption-Free Primary Health Care System

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

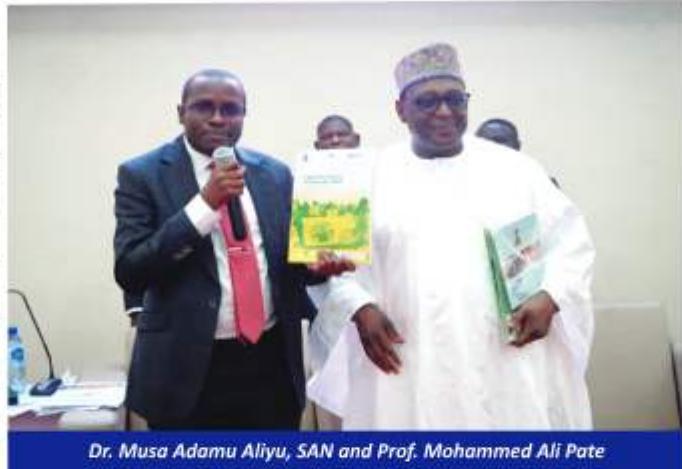
The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the Federal Ministry of Health and other critical stakeholders in the health sector have converged in Abuja to proffer solutions to the high level of corruption within the health sector.

At the one-day conference tagged "Corruption-Free Primary Health Care Delivery for All" held at the ICPC's headquarters, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Mohammad Ali Pate, stated that the challenge in the health sector was systemic and multi-institutional, which is also linked to state capacity and individuals. The Minister affirmed the need for effective collaboration between the ICPC and the Ministry, where a formidable system would be formed to tackle many of the challenges culminating in the corrupt practices in the Primary Health-Care system.

"In health, what we are trying to do is to improve the system, save lives and reduce physical and financial pains for all Nigerians. A lot of the population has access to nothing. So, in the disbursements of these basic needs at the Primary Health-Care level, we'll be asking the ICPC and other law enforcement agencies to keep an eye, and we'll be glad to have your team work with the MOC (Ministerial Oversight Committee) Secretariat to look at the facilities of all the disbursement amounts."

The minister also harped on the importance of accountability in the primary health-care sector, saying that with the collaboration of ICPC, deterrence could be put in place to make the sector corruption-free.

"I really want to appreciate your invitation to us, we'll join hands with you, and I will assign a team from the ministry, the head of the anti-corruption team, one of my senior aides, as well as others in the ministry, to work with the counterpart from your team to develop a whole program that periodically we'll take stock of. We work together to prevent what we can prevent, and if there are errors, we



Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN and Prof. Mohammed Ali Pate

correct them. That is the way to build a system."

In his remarks, the Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, noted that the conference was organised to stimulate discussions that will help improve service delivery devoid of windows for corrupt tendencies in the Health Sector.

He added that the Commission's choice of the Primary Health Care in the Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T.) as the pilot for the nationwide conversation was to create a comprehensive template that can be replicated in all six geo-political zones of the federation.

He said, "Participants were carefully drawn from community healthcare stakeholders to have a holistic and collaborative approach to improving the effectiveness of primary healthcare service delivery. This is just one of the many efforts being made by the Commission to enlist and foster public support in combating corruption in Nigeria." The ICPC boss also commended the interest being shown by several communities and civil societies in tackling corruption in the health sector, saying one of such interests triggered the swift action from the Commission that prevented many of the dishonest conduct in the sector.

"Recently, the Sambawa community in Kebbi State sent a petition to us regarding missing antenatal care items for pregnant women and newborn babies donated to a healthcare facility. Our preliminary investigation indicated that the missing diapers allocated to Sambawa Primary

Healthcare Centre are 13,350 pieces, while the investigation by Kebbi State Primary Healthcare Agency puts it at 3,466. Though the two staff members of the Sambawa Primary Healthcare Centre, a male and a female, were indicted for the missing items, we intend to go all out and unravel the dishonest conduct and bring the culprits to book."

Dr. Aliyu also expressed a strong belief that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ICPC and the

Ministry of Health, most especially on the Corruption Risk Assessment Implementation Steering Committee, will provide opportunities for the cross-pollination of anti-corruption ideas and harness potential and all available resources to address issues that hinder people from enjoying a corruption-free healthcare system in Nigeria.

In her keynote address, the Federal Capital Territory Authority's Mandate Secretary, Health Services and Environment, Dr Adedolapo Fasawe, decried how corruption has hampered and continues to bedevil the Primary Health Care service delivery in Nigeria, saying that there was a need to adopt the public health approach to making the PHC system corruption-free.

"Rather than detecting the corruption after it has been committed, audit and petition style, it must be prevented, and if it occurs, must be detected, that is Outbreak Control, as soon as possible through the use of sensitive tools, Surveillance.

"The Governance and Leadership building block is also very key to engendering the corruption-free Primary Health Care delivery for all. Honest and competent leadership at key positions in the PHC and Health system will clean the Aegean stable. This can only be achieved if competent, transparent and proven professionals are in place to manage the PHC system. Therefore, policies and laws must be in place to ensure that filling of these managerial positions is merit-based, and continued occupation of these offices is based on performance."

ICPC Conference: AGF Fagbemi Calls for Exclusion of Prerogative of Mercy in Corruption Cases

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, SAN, has proposed excluding the prerogative of mercy in corruption cases during the next constitutional amendment.

The prerogative of mercy is a power granted to the President under Section 175 and to Governors under Section 212 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), allowing them to pardon or commute the sentences of convicted individuals.

Speaking at a one-day conference organised by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for state Attorneys General in Abuja, Prince Fagbemi emphasised the importance of unity in the fight against corruption.

The Minister of Justice urged all stakeholders to approach corruption impartially, free from religious, cultural, or political biases, stressing that, "In the fight against corruption, we must all act as statesmen".

According to AGF, "When corruption is involved, the only relevant question should be: what are the facts? There should be no room for biases like 'Where is he from?' or 'What is his religion?'. I suggest that in our next constitutional amendment, corruption cases should be excluded from the prerogative of mercy."

The keynote speaker, former Attorney-General of the Federation, Mr. Kanu Agabi, SAN, highlighted the critical role of state Attorneys General in combating corruption, emphasising that Attorneys General are the chief law officers of their states, not of the political parties in power.

The Former Justice Minister said that the primary responsibility of state commissioners of Justice is to protect



Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, SAN, Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice

citizens and ensure the government operates within the law, noting, "You are duty-bound to advise the government on legal matters and to protect the public from arbitrary executive actions. As chief law officers, your role transcends political affiliations. You are not under the control of the governor or the ruling party but are expected to serve all citizens equally."

Mr. Agabi called for a system that will enable Nigerians who have money stashed abroad to return it for investment purposes, stressing, "The time has come when we must encourage Nigerians who have money abroad to bring such money back home and invest here. Even unconditionally. The monies that we are recovering as proceeds of crime represent a tiny fraction of the monies that Nigerians have deposited abroad.

"If these monies are recovered or recalled and invested in education or power or the provision of infrastructures or directed at making the nation self-reliant, it will not be long before the nation is well on the way to ridding itself of corruption. Corruption cannot be eliminated overnight. It will take time."

The ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu

Aliyu, SAN, welcomed participants and highlighted the strategic importance of the conference in advancing Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts.

"As part of our implementation strategy, we have invited you here today to examine our current justice system and develop effective strategies to enhance the ICPC's capacity for preventive measures. I hope to also enhance synergy between State Attorneys General and State anti-corruption agencies now established nationwide with the ICPC to provide a suitable platform for an effective fight against corruption and a viable solution to Nigeria's current socio-political problems". He added.

The ICPC Boss also noted that despite a landmark Supreme Court ruling affirming the ICPC's authority to investigate and prosecute state-level cases, anti-corruption agencies continue to face legal challenges and restraining orders involving state officials.

According to him, the role of the Attorney Generals in the States of the Federation in upholding justice and the

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ICPC Conference...

rule of law is essential to a corruption-free Nigeria.

He said, "I do not doubt that you embody these ideals, and your attendance at this conference signifies your commitment to pursuing a corruption-free Nigeria. We must recognise that corruption is not merely a legal issue but a common enemy hindering national development. It is a cancer that erodes public trust, stifles economic growth, and perpetuates inequality."

In their goodwill messages, key

stakeholders, including the Attorney-General of Ebonyi State, Dr. Uruchi Ben Odoh, and the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mazi Afam Josiah Osigwe, SAN, reiterated the need for a unified approach in the fight against corruption.

They emphasised that cooperation between all levels of government, particularly state Attorneys General, the ICPC, and other anti-graft agencies, is crucial for significant progress in curbing corruption.

Mrs. Amina Salihu, who represented the Country Director, MacArthur

Foundation and representative of the Senate Committee Chairman on Anti-Corruption, Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, all stressed that the fight against corruption required a concerted and unified approach, where every arm of government, particularly the State Attorneys General, works hand in hand with the ICPC and other anti-graft agencies.

They maintained that such alignment with ICPC and others, plus pooling of resources together, would create a formidable force that is capable of making significant strides in corruption prevention.

Local Govt Autonomy: We Will Pursue Anyone Who Defies Supreme Court Ruling - ICPC Chair



Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, Chairman, ICPC

By: Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has issued a stern warning that the Commission will not hesitate to take action against any official or individual who defies the Supreme Court's ruling on local government autonomy.

On July 11, 2024, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment affirming the financial autonomy of Nigeria's 774 Local Government

Councils.

The seven-member panel, led by Justice Mohammed Garba, unanimously upheld a suit brought by the federal government aimed at reinforcing the independence of local governments across the country.

The court also rejected the stance of state governments that sought to dissolve democratically elected local government councils.

Speaking at the recently concluded 6th Annual General Assembly of the Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions

in West Africa (NACIWA), Dr. Aliyu emphasised that the ICPC was committed to holding key stakeholders accountable, free from external interference.

His words, "What we have been focusing on is ensuring that critical stakeholders in this country are held accountable, and working to reduce corruption. Next month, in September, we will hold a summit with these stakeholders to discuss collaborative efforts.

Continuing, he said, "As I have stated before, local governments must be politically independent, and any state-level official who violates this Supreme Court decision will be held accountable for gross misconduct and abuse of office.

"The ICPC is prepared to take action against anyone who goes against the Supreme Court's decision on local government autonomy," he asserted.

During the event, Dr. Aliyu also highlighted the transnational nature of corruption, stressing the need for collective action by nations and expressing confidence in the objectives and guiding principles of NACIWA, which signal a strong commitment to tackling corruption among member states.

ICPC Recovers N4 Billion in Public Funds within 24 Hours, Pledges Continued Efforts

By Damilola Oye-Jegede

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) successfully recovered nearly N4 billion in public funds within 24 hours, from September 18 to 19, 2024.

This significant recovery, which involved funds illegally diverted into private accounts, was announced by ICPC Chairman Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu during a National Anti-corruption Coalition (NACC) Members Interactive Forum held on Thursday in Abuja.

In his address, Dr. Aliyu highlighted the commission's dedication to reclaiming more public funds and emphasised Nigeria's growing challenge of corruption.

The ICPC Boss, while advocating for a united front to tackle the issue, stated, "Corruption remains one of Nigeria's most persistent challenges. It undermines economic growth, erodes public trust, and weakens governance. Our experience at the ICPC has shown that a proactive, multi-faceted approach—encompassing enforcement, prevention, deterrence, and reform—is crucial."

Dr. Aliyu also pointed to digital transformation as a key tool in combating corruption. "Digital platforms offer powerful means to track, analyse, and expose corrupt practices, including salary padding and ghost workers."

According to him, "At ICPC, we have seen the potential of these tools through our review of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS)."

The ICPC Chairman, who reaffirmed the

Commission's commitment to upholding the rule of law, referencing recent Supreme Court rulings on local government autonomy, stressed that the judiciary plays a vital role in promoting accountability, particularly at the local level.

His words, "The Supreme Court's decision underscores the need for democratically

deliberate," he added.

He expressed his gratitude to ICPC staff, NACC members, and civil society organisations (CSOs) for their ongoing commitment to combating corruption in Nigeria. "I entrust my leadership to the guidance of Almighty God and pledge to be a leader who listens, building on the legacy of those who have chaired this institution before me.",

In a separate presentation, Mr. Jimoh Sulaimon, Deputy Director of the Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Initiative (CEPTI), urged NACC members to actively monitor and track constituency and government projects in their

communities to prevent corruption, such as low-quality work or abandoned projects.

Mr. Sulaimon noted with delight, "When NACC members take ownership of project monitoring, it ensures higher standards of execution and long-term preservation."

Mr. Kingsley Obi, a Deputy-Director, and Head of Public/Private Sector Partnership and Data Unit, reiterated that NACC serves as a coordination platform for CSOs and NGOs in tracking corruption and was not a parallel authority to ICPC. Rather, the coalition operates under the direct oversight of the ICPC to support its anti-corruption mission.

NACC, a coalition of CSOs, acts as an outreach arm of the ICPC, promoting anti-corruption education, public awareness, and preventive measures aimed at curbing corruption across Nigeria.



Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, Chairman, ICPC

elected local government councils to manage public funds. In response, ICPC will intensify efforts to ensure compliance with the judgment and prevent the diversion of local government resources."

He further emphasised the importance of local government autonomy in reducing corruption and ensuring effective community development. "By aligning our initiatives with the court's ruling, ICPC remains committed to transparency and the enforcement of the rule of law, which are essential for good governance and sustainable development."

Dr. Aliyu also unveiled his policy thrust for his tenure, focusing on fighting corrupt practices with an emphasis on prevention, leveraging technology, and promoting the values of Culture, Accountability, Responsibility, and Efficiency (CARE) within the ICPC. "This policy will guide and assess my leadership at the Commission. It is crucial that our anti-corruption efforts remain focused and

ICPC leads Nigeria's Re-election as a returning member of the Global Anti-Corruption Committee

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is proud to announce Nigeria's re-election to the Steering Committee of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network). This significant accomplishment, achieved at the fifth plenary meeting in Beijing, China, solidifies Nigeria's position as a key player in the global fight against corruption, highlighting the nation's dedication to combating corruption both domestically and internationally.

The GlobE Network, established in 2021, serves as a powerful platform for international cooperation in the fight against corruption, enabling law enforcement agencies worldwide to effectively detect, investigate, and prosecute cross-border corruption offences. Nigeria's re-election to the Steering Committee, alongside global powerhouses such as China, Russia, Spain, Romania, and South Korea, showcases the nation's dedication and significant contributions to the global anti-corruption agenda.

Led by ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, and in collaboration with other key Nigerian anti-corruption agencies, Nigeria's delegation passionately championed the nation's continued leadership within the GlobE Network. Their presentation highlighted Nigeria's proactive anti-corruption efforts, showcasing the collective achievements of the nation's anti-corruption agencies and the country's active engagement in regional and global initiatives. The delegation's emphasis on Nigeria's status as Africa's most populous nation and its dedication to spearheading unified asset recovery efforts resonated strongly with member countries.

"This re-election is an emphatic endorsement of the tireless efforts of His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, in championing the anti-corruption agenda not only within Nigeria but also across West Africa and on the global stage. Nigeria's continued presence on the Steering Committee will undoubtedly enhance its influence and collaboration with international partners, enabling even more effective strategies to combat corruption and promote good governance."

This strategic position empowers Nigeria to influence the global anti-corruption landscape by promoting stronger international partnerships and leveraging valuable resources and expertise. It strengthens the capabilities of the ICPC and other key anti-corruption agencies to effectively combat cross-border corruption, facilitate asset recovery, and disrupt illicit financial flows. Nigeria's re-election

signifies a significant step towards a more transparent and accountable nation.

As Nigeria embarks on this new term, the ICPC remains steadfast in its resolve to strengthen its efforts, forge robust partnerships, and employ innovative approaches to eradicate corruption. We are committed to ensuring a transparent and accountable governance system that benefits all Nigerians.

ICPC Strengthens Partnership with COREN for Enhanced Infrastructure Development



COREN President, Engr. Sadiq Zubair Abubakar (L) and ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN

By Innocent Macaulay

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has emphasised the importance of continued collaboration between the Commission and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) to leverage their expertise in infrastructure development across the country.

Dr. Aliyu made this statement during a recent visit by COREN's President, Engr. Prof. Sadiq Zubair Abubakar and other management members to the ICPC Headquarters. The primary purpose of the visit was to review the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two agencies to strengthen their partnership.

Dr. Aliyu underscored the need for both ICPC and COREN to be committed to transparency and integrity, making their collaboration crucial for improving infrastructural development and ensuring adherence to required standards.

According to him, "ICPC is committed to working with you because you have the expertise, and we have the enforcement power."

The ICPC Boss also expressed concern over the current challenges facing Nigeria, particularly in the construction of roads and buildings, and pledged that the Commission would ensure compliance with established standards.

Dr. Aliyu noted that COREN's expertise would be invaluable to the Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Group (CEPTG) initiative of the ICPC.

Speaking on behalf of COREN, Engr. Abubakar stressed the need to review the MoU with ICPC to reinforce their partnership and hold accountable those responsible for substandard infrastructure.

The COREN Chief expressed his expectation for the establishment of a joint committee to update the MoU, which was originally signed in 2014, to reflect current realities, noting, "We must strengthen our collaboration with ICPC, as our predecessors saw the importance of formalising this relationship through an MoU."

In his remarks, the Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Clifford Okwudiri Okparaodu, DSSRS, who echoed the need to revise the existing agreement in line with the present situation in the country, praised COREN's leadership for recognising the concerns of the ICPC Chairman and the Nigerian public, assuring that a committee would be formed to work closely with the COREN team.

The visit also included the presentation of the MoU to the ICPC Chairman and the exchange of a commemorative plaque from the COREN President.

ICPC Strengthens Institutional Framework in Nigerian Local Governments as First Integrity Index Report is Presented

By Kehinde Abdulsalam

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, has reiterated the Commission's commitment to strengthening institutional frameworks across Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Dr. Aliyu gave this assurance recently in Abuja during the official presentation of the First Nigerian Local Government Integrity Index Report by the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity.

In his remarks, the ICPC Chairman commended the initiative, describing it as a timely and valuable tool for deepening transparency and accountability at the grassroots.

He noted that the Commission would carefully study the findings and integrate some of the report's innovations into its own recently launched programme—Accountability and Corruption Prevention in Local Governments (ACCP-LG). "We shall take a cue from this Index Report, particularly the issues that touch on transparency, accountability, and local government finances. The Commission will review the findings thoroughly and determine how to fuse the novel ideas highlighted into our ACCP-LG initiative. Our goal is to strengthen institutional frameworks in local governments, ensuring they deliver impactful and effective services to the people," Dr. Aliyu said.

Presenting the report, the Executive Director of the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity, Dr. Umar Yakubu, revealed that the study uncovered a deep governance crisis in Nigeria's local government system.

According to the findings, 85 percent of LGAs fall into the "Very High" or "Critical" risk categories, reflecting

transparency, scoring 15/100.

3. Critical Cases: Port Harcourt LGA in Rivers State scored 92/100, with no functional website, frequent FOI denials, poor disclosures, and a history of violence and alleged election manipulation.

4. State Trends: While most states averaged "Very High Risk," exceptions were noted in Lagos, Jigawa, Nasarawa, and Kaduna.



ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN (M), flanked by stakeholders and management staff by ICPC during the launch of the first report

widespread opacity, weak enforcement mechanisms, and fragile service delivery. The Index assessed LGAs using eight key pillars: fiscal transparency, resource mobilisation, anti-corruption enforcement, post-election governance, civic oversight, public service outcomes, digital infrastructure, and security environment.

Key highlights of the report include:

1. Systemic Integrity Failures: 658 LGAs (85%) ranked in Tiers 4 and 5 ("Very High" and "Critical" risk).
2. Low-Risk Benchmark: Only four LGAs (0.5%) fell into Tier 1 ("Low Risk"), with Nasarawa LGA in Nasarawa State emerging as the national model for

Dr. Yakubu further recommended urgent reforms, including: (1) Direct fund allocation from the Federal Government to LGAs without state interference (2) Mandatory quarterly transparency audits for high-risk LGAs, and (3) Adoption of open contracting, asset disclosure frameworks, and digital governance platforms.

The event underscored ICPC's ongoing collaboration with civil society organisations and other stakeholders in using research, verifiable data, and evaluation to strengthen Nigeria's anti-corruption ecosystem and provide credible information to the public.

ICPC STATE OFFICES LOCATIONS

Report any act of corruption to the ICPC Headquarters, Plot 802, Constitutions avenue, Central Business District, Abuja, or the nearest ICPC State office in the following addresses:

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Anambra State Office

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E-mail: anambra@icpc.gov.ng

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**“Integrity
pays, avoid
corruption
as much as
you can”**

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