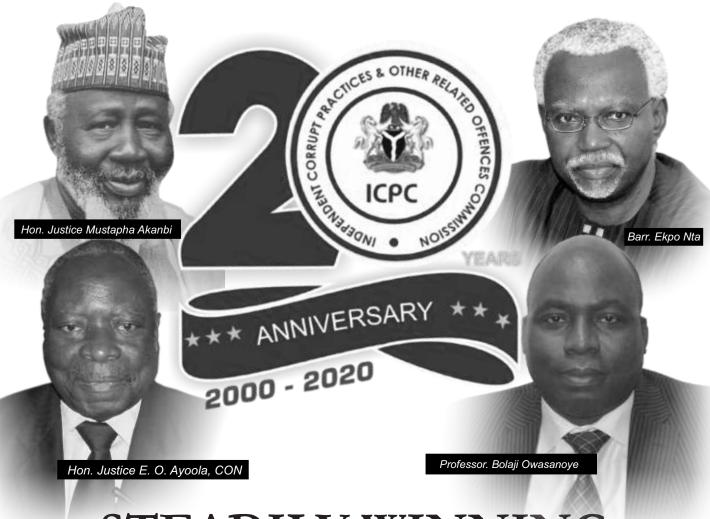


An Authoritative Publication of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission

ICPC NEWS VOL 14 NO 1, October, 2020



## STEADILY WINNING THE WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION

By Femi Gold

(With excerpts from the speeches of ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye).

Read story from page 3



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ICPC NEWS is a Publication of the
INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES
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## ICPC at 20: Steadily Winning the War Against Corruption

By Femi Gold

wenty years ago, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, Africa's foremost anti-corruption agency

truncated by the judgement of the Federal High Court, where it held that the steps taken by the National Assembly in passing the Bill were in violation of a Court Order, and by the of the corrupt that constantly develop schemes to circumvent rules and procedures. While enforcement is targeted at sanctioning corrupt individuals, prevention is for overall system change along with an enduring re-orientation of the citizenry.

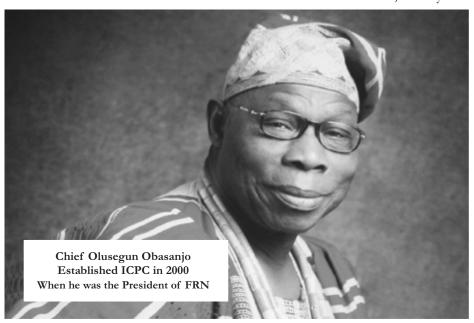
Within its three-fold mandate, the Commission has in the past 20 years recorded a number of achievements. It has received cumulatively 19,381 petitions in 20 years, successfully investigated about 5,000 of the petitions and prosecuted almost 1,000 and secured convictions in about 20% of the cases over the years including successfully defending up to the Supreme Court, a challenge to the constitutionality of the enabling Act...

On assets recovery, movable and immovable assets worth billions of naira have been recovered. Between May 2015 and December 2019 alone, it recovered assets in terms of cash, houses, plots of land and vehicles, wrongly appropriated by public officers worth billions of Naira and secured 81 convictions in courts.

ICPC is currently prosecuting some high-profile individuals including a former Governor, a retired Court of Appeal Judge, Director-General of a government agency, among others.

Within the same period, the Commission has conducted System Study and Reviews on

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was born. Prior to setting up the Commission, corruption had given Nigeria and Nigerians a terribly bad image in the eyes of the international community. It brought our nation near the brink and almost rendered it helpless and hopeless. It therefore became imperative that something drastic had to be done to arrest the rot. This informed the establishment of ICPC to tackle corruption head-on.

Soon after its creation, an attempt was made to abolish the Commission through the legislative procedure and powers of the National Assembly because the Commission investigated key members of the Legislature. The Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2003 was enacted to repeal similar Act enacted in 2000 that established ICPC. However, the process was

refusal of President Olusegun Obasanjo to assent to the Bill.

From 2000 to date, the Commission has had four Governing Boards and Chairmen. The pioneer Board was headed by Honourable Justice Mustapha Akanbi, CFR, from 2000 – 2005, the second Board was led by Honourable Justice Emmanuel OlayinkaAyoola, CON from 2005 – 2010, the third was by Mr. Ekpo Nta from 2012 – 2017; while the 4th Board, inaugurated in 2019, is headed by Professor Bolaji Owasanoye.

The establishment of ICPC brought a fresh and decisive perspective to the fight against corruption in the form of a holistic approach encompassing Enforcement, Prevention, Education and Public Mobilisation. These strategies arise from the fact that effective enforcement and prevention must of necessity be several steps ahead



## Steadily Winning The War Against Corruption



47 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government and Five Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs) in different key sectors of the economy including transport, education, health, water resources and the egovernment system.

In 2019, System Study and Review of Personnel Cost and the Capital Expenditure of 201 MDAs was conducted. As a result, ICPC restrained a total of N41.98b from misapplication.

The fourth and current Board has focused on activities that (1) strengthen government's desire to eradicate corruption in the revenue and expenditure sides of governance, (2) take development closer to the people by diminishing poverty and implementing sustainable development goals, and (3) ensure value for money in the implementation of publicly funded projects, escalate asset recovery, and reduce retail corruption as the

everyday experience of ordinary people.

The new Board has also revised and upscaled the deployment of Ethics and Compliance Scorecard on 280 MDAs, and hope to attain 350 in 2020. It is currently undertaking other fresh initiatives to prevent corruption in Nigeria. One of them is the Constituency & Executive Projects Tracking Initiative, aimed at ensuring the satisfactory execution of government projects as well as obtaining value for money.

During the pilot phase of the exercise conducted in 2019, projects from 2015 to 2019 in 12 states were tracked. Successes of the exercise included the recoveries of tractors, ambulances, dialysis machines and other hospital equipment from sponsors of the projects.

The achievements of the exercise also included the recovery of huge sums of money, hundreds of tricycles, grinding machines and other empowerment items from the project sponsors. In addition, the exercise forced contractors who, hitherto had abandoned projects, to

return to site to complete them.

Following the success recorded, ICPC has commenced the implementation of the second phase in 16 states not covered in the pilot phase with the aim of ensuring that government gets value in the execution of public projects, and improved delivery of social welfare services to the citizens.

Just as the first phase, the project tracking is being conducted in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Media, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation (OAGF), Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) and other stakeholders.

ICPC is the secretariat for the inter-agency committee on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) in Nigeria through which measures to stem IFF are frequently discussed, and has also established Tax Fraud and Illicit Financial Flows Group in the Commission to track and prosecute offenders of tax evasion and recover proceeds from such crimes as part of its preventive initiative. This is in collaboration with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).



## ICPC at 20: Steadily Winning the War Against Corruption

Continued on page 6

With regards to public education established Anti-corruption Clubs and mobilization strategies, ICPC has developed various citizen participation platforms, which have been utilised to sensitize the Nigerian public against corruption and advocate for values reorientation.

The Commission has also undertaken thousands of sensitization sessions including workshops, town hall meetings etc., which cut across public institutions, secondary schools, tertiary institutions, NYSC orientation camps, rural communities, government agencies, and so on, in all the geopolitical zones of the country.

Collaboration with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) in 2003 culminated in the development of the National Values Curriculum (NVC), which identified 12 core values of Honesty, Discipline, Justice, Right Attitude to Work, Citizen's Rights & Duties, National Consciousness, Contentment, Courage, Concern for Others, Family Values, Religious Values and Traditional Values.

The anti-corruption values were infused into subjects at Basic 1-9, Post Basic (Senior Secondary School 1-3) and Colleges of Education Minimum Standards. In 2012, the Commission launched the NVC Teachers Guide and conducted training workshops for teachers on their effective usage.

and Vanguards in secondary schools and tertiary institutions across the country in a bid to provide a moral compass for students and young adults who would be moving from educational institutions into the world of work.

Furthermore, the Commission has established Anti-Corruption and Monitoring Units (ACTUs) in 449 lectures, speeches, rallies, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)to complement and strengthen more effectively, the efforts of the Commission in the areas of monitoring, reporting and preventing corruption. Some of the manifest benefits of ACTUs, among others include increased reportage and investigation of corruption cases, system studies, enlightenment activities, increased capacity to assess corruption vulnerabilities efficiently in the MDAs and increased education and communication activities.

> ICPC has also engaged citizens at grassroots level in the budgetary process in Local Government Areas, as well as established the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN) as a specialized institution for capacity building on good governance and research to provide government with evidence-based findings to combat corruption. The Academy has so far trained 13,739 public servants, and has extended its training to Anti-Corruption Agencies on the African continent. In early 2019, the regional body ECOWAS, adopted the Academy as its Centre of Excellence for anti-corruption training.

To further enlist public support for In furtherance of its 'catch them the fight against corruption, the young' strategy, ICPC has current Board has produced the



National Ethics and Integrity Policy has been approved by Federal Executive Council. The policy was developed in collaboration with the Office the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) and the National Orientation Agency (NOA).

As part of activities marking its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ICPC recently launched the "N20m from ICPC at 20" with three main competitions aimed at provoking youth creativity and support for the fight against corruption and rewarding integrity in the public sector. The first is the National Music Competition for Nigerian youths during which the composed anti-corruptionbased songs. The next is a



### ICPC at 20: Steadily Winning the War Against Corruption

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National Essay Competition for Junior and Senior Secondary Schools with Anti-Corruption and Integrity Clubs.

In addition, the Commission has given the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICPC Public Service Integrity Award to two exemplary federal government workers. The Public Service Integrity Awardees are CSP Francis Osagie Erhabor of the Nigeria Police Force and a Civil Servant, Mallam Hamza Adamu

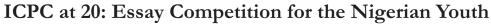
At least five world-class forensic experts have received certification and more are currently undergoing training. In 2019, the Commission commenced an EDMS project to digitize the operational component of work and its legacy documents from inception. These measures have suddenly become ideal and imperative for coping with the effects of COVID-19 on governance and operations.



Buwai, a Deputy Director with the Federal Ministry of Defence Abuja. The Integrity Award is designed to recognise and appreciate public servants with exceptional acts of integrity. The total prize money for these competitions is Twenty Million Naira (N20, 000,000) which is kindly provided by the Mac Arthur Foundation.

In the area of infrastructure, ICPC, has in the past 16 months up-scaled the forensic capacities of the Commission with modern soft and hard ware including handwriting, polygraphing, biometric and access control facilities. In pursuit of these projects and other objectives, the Board has initiated a number of strategic partnerships. For instance, ICPC is collaborating with the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (OAuGF), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), National Social Investment Office (NSIO), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), National Orientation Agency (NOA), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) to mention a few.

Projects being executed under these collaborations include the tracking of Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes (HGSFP) of





By Alhassan Abubakar

n affirming its corporate good citizenship posture, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has actively engaged young Nigerians in the

activities.

In marking its 20th anniversary, this year ICPC recently organized an essay competition for students in both junior and senior secondary

he both junior and senior secondary processes to the secondary processes to

campaign to rid the country of the scourge of corrupt practices and other related offences.

Ms Matilda Daniels receives cash prize in cheque from the ICPC Chairman.

ICPC believes that youth as the leaders of tomorrow, should understand that their future begins now and therefore needs to take their destinies in their own hands. Thus, it becomes necessary for students to commit pen to paper in expressing their views on the state of the nation, particularly as a demonstration of their efforts at proffering solutions to potential threats of corruption on their future.

It is clear that reading and writing are essential components of learning. Therefore, through essays or composition, Nigerian youths can have a sense of belonging in the activities of ICPC. It is on this premise that ICPC has over time engaged students from both junior and senior secondary schools on literary and debating projects in line with schools extra-curricular

schools, public and private, who are members of integrity based clubs such as the School Antithemselves; word limit observed; plagiarism forbidden and submissions evaluated based on WAEC criteria. Family members of ICPC staff and that of the panel of judges were not eligible to participate; essays were submitted through online or the nearest ICPC offices; the twelve finalists were notify by e-mail.

The prizes won very attractive and motivating, ranging from cash to laptops and lots more. The topic for students of senior secondary school was "The role of youth in the fight against corruption" and that for students in junior secondary school was "How to end the menace of examination malpractice".

The essay competition received enormous acceptance as the Commission recorded 1,114 entries at the end of submissions. The twelve finalists were scheduled to write a short essay



corruption Clubs (SACs) sponsored by ICPC or any similar clubs sponsored by EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies.

As a rule, it was ensured that rule essays were written by the students

under the supervision of staff of the Commission in its state offices.

Winners were announced at a grand ceremony, held in September 28th, 2020 to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission.



## ICPC appoints Acting Head of PE Dept, Spokesperson

By Femi Gold

he Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has appointed Mrs. Azuka Chinelo Ogugua, as the Acting Head of Public Enlightenment Department and Spokesperson for the Commission.

Mrs. Ogugua took over from Mrs. Rasheedat Adunni Okoduwa, mni, the outgoing Director, Public Enlightenment, who retired from the service of the Commission after attaining 60 years of age stipulated for retirement.

In this new role, the Acting Head of Public Enlightenment is charged with the responsibility of cultivating a positive image for ICPC, managing



publicity for its activities and programmes, developing anti-

corruption enlightenment programmes, maintaining relationship with the media and the implementation of other communication functions.

Until her current appointment, she was the Deputy Head of Education Department in ICPC.

Ogugua is an Assistant Director holds an M.Sc. in Public Relations/Marketing from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She is also an Associate Member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) and the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM).

## FEC approves National Ethics and Integrity Policy for the Good and Ethical Conduct of the Nigerian Citizenry.

Azuka Ogugua

he Federal Executive Council (FEC), at its (2020) 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, held Wednesday, 19th August, 2020, has approved the National Ethics and Integrity Policy. The Policy, which is the brainchild of Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), was cosponsored by the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) and National Orientation Agency (NOA). The Policy was approved for the good and ethical conduct of the Nigerian citizenry.

The journey towards developing the policy on Ethics and Integrity for Nigeria commenced when the Commission developed the much-acclaimed National Values Curriculum for the teaching of 12 identified core values in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions across the nation.

The Curriculum, approved by the National Council on Education in 2004 and infused into existing school subjects is being taught



as part of those subjects since 2007/2008 academic session, with a Teachers' Guide launched in 2012 to assist teachers in the effective communication of the values.

In his opening statement in the policy document, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye stated that the development of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy is was "a befitting follow-up to the National Values Curriculum initiative", adding that, "the policy coming at ICPC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Nigeria's 60<sup>th</sup> year of nationhood is timely".

The Policy was developed in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders (traditional and religious institutions, civil society, the public and private sector, behavioural change experts, etc.) who also had an opportunity to make their inputs at a webinar held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

Following the approval by the FEC, plans are on-going to convene broader stakeholder meetings to prepare an action plan and consequence management framework for the Policy.

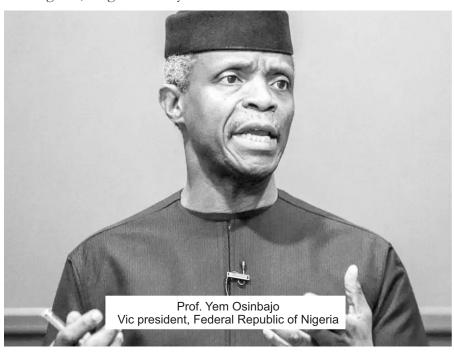


## ICPC 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: Corruption remains a Scourge to Development, If Illicit Financial Flows is not Tackle in Nigeria - Osinbajo

By: RoselineMaduako

ithout effectively combating illicit financial flows; corruption will remain a scourge to our developmental yearnings, The Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo (SAN) made this remark recently at the opening ceremony of the African Regional Webinar titled, "Combating Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows: New Measures and Strategies", organized by the

inequitable and unjust international economic system that continues to undermine the social and economic development aspirations of poor countries especially from Africa, hence Goal 16 of the SDGs is devoted to corruption, specifically commits that: 'by 2030, significantly reduce illicit flows and arms flows, strengthen the recovery, return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crimes'.



Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) as part of activities marking its 20th anniversary.

According to him, "Over the years, massive public resources and assets have been directly stolen; diverted; deliberately misapplied to gratify corrupt tendencies; stashed in foreign jurisdictions or mired in and susceptible to pilferage by the

The Vice President noted that the three-fold mandate of ICPC; enforcement of laws against corruption; prevention of acts of corruption; public education and enlightenment against corruption remains relevant today as it was 20 years ago, stating that the government had supported the fulfillment of this statutory mandate by demonstrating the political will that has afforded all anti-corruption agencies the latitude to do their work without interference.

On his own part, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Mustapha, expressed his delight with the several initiatives the Commission put in place to combat corruption, such as: Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking; Revenue and expenditure tracking in collaboration with agencies like Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation and the Federal Inland Revenue Service: Leveraging technology in the systems study and review of personnel and capital vote of MDAs and Ethics Compliance Survey of MDAs.

According to him, ICPC's efforts have yielded dividends within a short time, emphasizing that the Webinar offered another opportunity for participants to reflect, recommend new measures and strategies that could be used to combat corruption and stem IFFs from the continent.

Earlier in his welcome address, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, said that the Commission, had in the past 20 years, received 19,831 petitions, successfully investigated about 5,000 of the petitions and prosecuted almost 1,000; securing about 20% convictions of the cases.

Professor Owasanoye also stated that the Commission conducted 47 System Study and Reviews on public sector MDAs



## ICPC 20<sup>™</sup> ANNIVERSARY: Corruption remains a Scourge to Development, says VP Osinbajo

Continued from page 9

of the economy including transport, education, health and the e-government system.

The Chairman added "The Commission made input in the introduction and design of the (BVN) by Office of the Accountant-General of the In his goodwill message, the Deputy Federation (OAGF), Bankers Committee, Integrated Payroll & Personal Information System (IPPIS) and Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) to mention a few achievements."

He further noted that in its approach to enlist public support and encourage citizens to own the fight against corruption, the Commission had always engaged the media and civil society in its Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Initiative, on drafting National ethics and integrity policy, tracking of conditional cash transfer, school feeding programs, and reducing retail corruption on the roads by regular joint enforcement actions with the FRSC and other security agencies.

He added: "In the area of infrastructure, we have in the past 16 months up-scaled the forensic capacities of the Commission with modern soft and hard ware including hand writing, polygraph, biometric and access control facilities. We have certified at least five world-class forensic experts and are training more. In 2019, we commenced an Electronic Document Management System

and 5 CRAs in different key sectors (EDMS) to digitize the operational components of the Commission's work and its legacy documents from inception. These measures have suddenly become ideal and imperative for coping with the effects of COVID-19 on governance and operations."

> Chairperson, African Union Commission, Thomas Kwesi-Qartey, commended Nigerians and the federal government for their tireless efforts towards improving financial flows and ethics, not just in Nigeria, but for the African continent as a whole, which is evident in the adoption of the Common African Position in Asset Recovery commonly known as CAPAR, during the 33rd Ordinary Session of Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of African Union held February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

> "The CAPAR will be extremely useful in helping African countries to identify, repatriate and effectively manage the illicitly acquired assets in a manner that respects our sovereignty as we work to stem IFFs from the continent," he said.

> The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon, in his address, acknowledged efforts of Nigerian government in corruption related convictions, especially in 2019 and repatriation of stolen funds from few jurisdictions. He also expressed belief that there was need for an approach that puts citizens at the center of the fight against corruption.

> "It is only when citizens see tangible

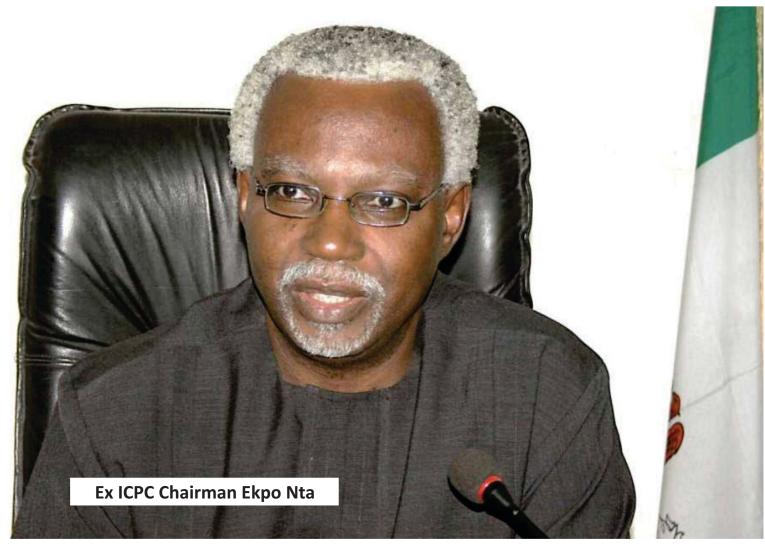
progress directly impacting their lives positively, that we can expect them to support the fight, to refuse to take part in corrupt practices and to report corruption incidents whenever they become aware of them. In short, we need to do better in demonstrating the actual benefits of the fight against corruption."

The 2-day webinar had other participants such as members of the National Assembly responsible for over-sighting the Commission, immediate past Chairman of ICPC, Barrister Ekpo Nta, Board Members of ICPC, Chairman of Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) and Development Partners amongst others.

# **SAY NO** CORRU-**PTION YOUR NO** COUNTS



## ICPC 20th ANNIVERSARY: The Strides made by Ex ICPC Chairman Ekpo Nta



Offences Commission recently successes. visited the former Chairman of to speak with him on the ICPC 20<sup>th</sup> writes:

The ICPC Board under Nta's international training.

ome staff of Public leadership was inaugurated by former staff got local trainings, while Enlightenment department President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan 112 staff sent on foreign of the Independent Corrupt (GCON) in November, 2012. The training. This figure was far Practices and Other Related period of the Board was with sterling higher than the number of staff

the Commission, Mr. Ekpo Nta, Mr. Nta who commenced his tenure Board. with a five year strategic action plan, Anniversary. Mr. Nta is now the 2012-2017, stated that he noticed In the area of prevention, Mr. Acting Chairman of the National ICPC was run like a core-ministry, Nta said, many corruption Salaries, Incomes and Wages instead of a law enforcement agency. prevention strategies were Commission. Murna Atiyaye For this reason, the Commission initiated and vigorously aggressively enhanced the capacity of executed. Some of these its staff through local and include: successful partnerships Thus, 1,882

trained in 12 years prior to the inauguration of the Nta -led



# ICPC 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY: The Strides made by Ex ICPC Chairman Ekpo Nta

with relevant stakeholders, Corruption Risk Assessments, System Studies and Reviews of government agencies and others.

Some notable partnerships, established under the leadership of Mr. Nta with outstanding benefits to ICPC's war against corruption are:

- The University System Study and Review (USSR), conducted in partnership with the National Universities Commission (NUC), resulted in the closure of 21 illegal institutions,
- In December, 2014, Nta's leadership of the Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Ministry of Aviation to carry out CRAs in the sector, specifically, at two international airports namely: Murtala Muhammad International Airport, Lagos and NnamdiAzikiwe International Airport, Abuja.
- Scrutiny of various sectors of the nation's economy for corruption risks with a view to identifying weaknesses in systems that allow corruption to thrive and thereby instituted an Integrity Plan directed at plugging the loopholes.

- Nigerian seaport sat Calabar, Warri, Tincan and Apapa were marked for Corruption Risk Assessment by ICPC officials in conjunction with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) and Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR), which culminated in all the agencies in the ports reviewing their professional codes of ethics for enhanced compliance with anti-corruption legislations.
- The Commission also discovered over N23 billion conveniently 'lost' in 40 bank accounts of Office of the Head of Service of the Federation (OHCSF) without records, tracking and monitoring. The Commission consolidated these accounts into four. In a particular instance, one of the accounts had accumulated an interest of N496 million, which the Commission recovered and paid back into the National Treasury.
- The Commission made a total recovery of both movable and immovable assets value at over N18 billion. The recoveries of cash, plots of land, buildings and vehicles were made through a very robust nonconviction assets recovery

process pioneered by the Nta's led Board.

- recovered 40 official vehicles that were dishonestly carted away by retiring public officers and returned them back to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources.
- Also, 71 more vehicles, retrieved after the winding up of SURE-P programme were also handed back to government.

Barrister Ekpo Nta said that ICPC had done well given the resources that had been given to it. The staff and the Commission had earned for itself respect for upholding rule of law in the discharge of its statutory functions. He wishes the Commission a happy 20th anniversary.





## ICPC at 20: Integrity Award to Recognize Public Servants with Exceptional Acts of Integrity

By Ruth Awodi

s the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, one of the activities lined up was the ICPC Integrity Awards for Exceptional Public Servants. This is a reward system instituted by the Commission to recognize and appreciate public servants with exceptional acts of integrity.

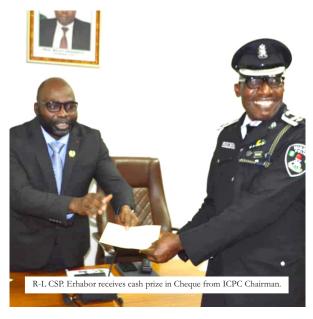
The first edition of the Integrity Award was held in November 2019 with the presentation of awards to two deserving public servants: ACG Bashir Abubakar of the Nigerian Customs Service and Mrs. Josephine Ugwu of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria for their honesty and integrity in the discharge of their duties.

This year another two outstanding Public Servants, CSP Francis Osagie Erhabor of the Nigeria Police Force and Hamza Adamu Buwai of the Federal Ministry of Defence were recognized.

The second edition of the Integrity Award is proposed to be by a call for nominations to the federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), to nominate an Exceptional Public/Civil Servant who has exhibited outstanding Integrity in the course of duty.

The objectives of the award are to recognize and reward deserving honest public servants who have exhibited exceptional acts of Integrity, encourage other honest Nigerians to continue to remain honest; stimulate public participation in the fight against corruption and facilitate a balanced strategy of punishment and reward in the fight against corruption.

It is important to note that ICPC staff and their immediate family, Judges and anyone that had a role to play in organizing the competition were not eligible to apply.





Nominees were restricted to serving at public servants at either the federal public or civil service and Nigerian citizens resident in Nigeria who had exhibited exceptional acts of Integrity.

• Nomination was done by uploading the CV of the nominee and a brief description of the exceptional act of integrity done by the person to the Commission's email address <a href="mailto:info@icpc.gov.ng">info@icpc.gov.ng</a>. The Shortlisting Subcommittee (5 persons) screened nominations based on information provided by the proposers. They would shortlist the numbers down to not-more-than 10% of total nominations A Selection sub-committee would order background checks to verify the stories of the shortlisted. With these background checks, they would further shortlist and select the most outstanding 2 for the Awards.

The monetary value of the Integrity Award is N5 Million for 2 awardees – male and female amounting to N 2.5 Million, for each.



## **ICPC** gets Communication Policy

By Bankole Akin-Taiwo

onsequent upon the pragmatic leadership style of Professor Bolaji Owasanove, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences

stakeholders and to perform all Coordinator to ensure delivery to functions of communication in the the Commission's State Offices. Commission. "Authorized Persons" are the Commission's staff, It also mentioned that,

Board members and other persons communication from head of departments and units at Headquarters to their unit or departmental members at state levels shall be routed through the State Commissioners, and communication from the state offices to HODs/HOUs at the Headquarters shall also be via the State Commissioner.

The policy promotes and validates a two-way communication between the Commission and its internal stakeholders; as well as its external stakeholders. The "Internal Stakeholders" refer to the Commission's staff, management and Board members, while the "External Stakeholders" are other international organizations, Part of the policy further reads, development partners, non-



Commission has developed and approved its Communication Policy, which prescribes guidelines governing communication with internal and external stakeholders.

The first of its kind policy ensures that ICPC's communication strategies and processes are executed in strict compliance with the stipulations of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000 or any other relevant laws.

Also, the purpose of the policy is to regulate the degree and quality of communications with ICPC's stakeholders in compliance with approved standards essential for the Commission's functioning. Therefore, the Policy's guiding principles require that only "designated authorized persons" are permitted to have formal engagement and interaction with both internal and external

specifically approved by the government authorities, Chairman or the Board.

"Apart from basic information that is governmental organizations, the already in the public domain, all media and the general public. request for information by external parties shall first be cleared by the The guiding principles of the Chairman or his designated policy remain critical to the representative. Also, operational achievement of Commission's information in possession of officers objectives and essential for its shall be handled in a confidential internal functioning and key to manner at all times. Furthermore, the achieving the statutory function policy states that operational of enlightening and mobilizing the information shall not be divulged to public on and or against bribery, any person (internal or external) corruption and related offences, as verbally or in writing except as stipulated by Section 6 (e) of ICPC otherwise directed by the Chairman". Act, 2000.

On the information regarding The policy affirms that "the general administrative and Standing Order" made by the operational issues, the Policy says it Commission's Chairman is shall be communicated promptly to superior and supersedes it due to all internal stakeholders through the stipulations of the ICPC Act, approved channels. In this regards, in 2000, Sections 7 (1) & 70 that addition to the general channels, such vested the Chairman with powers communication shall be effected to make "Standing Orders". through the office of the State Office



#### Ease-Of-Doing-Business: VP Osinbajo charges ICPC to go after Non-Compliant MDAs, as PEBEC, ICPC collaborate to fight Corruption

By Hassan Salihu

n furtherance of the federal government's effort at providing an enabling business environment in Nigeria, the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, has charged the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), with the responsibility of enforcing compliance with all resolutions and directives facilitating Ease-of-Doing-Business by concerned stakeholders in the country.

Professor Osinbajo made the charge at the presentation of an interim report on Nigeria's Easeof-Doing-Business intervention by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), comprising the Vice President as the Chairman, the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Ministers and other heads of relevant government agencies, held recently at the State House, Abuja.

The VP expressed his disapproval

with reports of alleged corrupt practices stated that the collaboration had by some government officials which reinforced the commitment of the frustrate the Ease-of-Doing-Business Commission to what it was doing to efforts of government.

Speaking also on the merits of the Commission had so far reviewed collaboration, the Vice President operational systems and conducted commended ICPC's ethics compliance ethics compliance evaluation of mechanism as a potent tool that should many MDAs in the country. be extended in application to ensure all stakeholders comply with PEBEC It may be noted that ICPC is prescribed rules for implementation.

PEBEC and ICPC collaboration was have developmental impact on launched with a view to curbing corrupt ordinary Nigerians. These practices and other related offences that collaborations include that with the have been reported through the National Orientation Agency (NOA) REPORTGOV.NG platform set up on citizens engagement with the specifically for that purpose.

Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, said she expected Social Investment programmes that ICPC would take up cases of administrative inadequacies or acts of feeding, conditional cash transfer, Ncorruption from the REPORTGOV.NG Power and the Government platform where they exist.

Making his response, the ICPC and Market Moni. Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye,

diminish corruption in the Public Service. He added that the

currently collaborating with a number of government agencies to During the report presentation session, diminish corruption in projects that constituency project tracking initiative, the National Social In her remarks, the PEBEC Secretary, Investment Office (NSIO) on the comprising home-grown school Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) of Trader Moni

#### ACAN trains Officers of ICPC, OAuGF to block Revenue Leakages in NNPC, FIRS, NCS, NPA, others

By Advent Boniface

Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (OAuGF) underwent a comprehensive training programme preparatory to the official kick-off of a system study and review exercise of revenue-generating agencies in Nigeria in order to curb government revenue losses and leakages.

The training, which is being held at the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), Keffi, Nasarawa State offered the participants opportunity to brainstorm on the best ways possible collaboration was intended to build on

o fewer than 150 staff of the to undertake system study and review of Independent Corrupt mega government revenue-generating agencies, such as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), etc.

> Declaring the training programme open, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, stressed that the comprehensive training was in furtherance of the agreement between the two agencies to "Join forces together in our next phase of the system study and review of revenue-generating agencies." The Chairman further stated that the

the sterling success of ICPC in its last system study and review exercise of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), which led to the blockage of huge government resources that were at risk of being misappropriated.

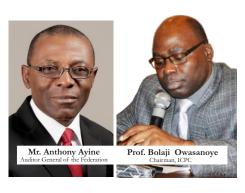
Professor Owasanove also enjoined the participants to be governed by a common ethical standard, pointing out that the agencies to be reviewed had suffered a lot of revenue leakages.



#### Continued from page 15

Speaking also during the opening ceremony of the training, the Auditor-General of the Federation, Mr. Anthony Ayine, emphasized the importance of the partnership, stating that Nigeria was already in the grip of corruption and needed a collective effort to free it.

"It is therefore clear that we can only curb corruption effectively by building partnerships, working together, strengthening collaboration and being united to fight it. It cannot be rooted out by any one single institution," the Auditor-General noted.



Also, in his remarks, one of ICPC's Board members, Hon. Abdullahi Maikano Sa'idu, expressed concern over a growth in the nation's revenue leakages from revenue-generating agencies.

The member further explained that blocking of Federal Government revenue leakages and loopholes would secure funds needed to finance the annual Appropriation Act, which would in turn, lead to the provision of social and physical infrastructure, and the creation of employment opportunities, amongst others.

#### ICPC, OAuGF Commence Audit, System Review of Customs, FIRS

By Sani Tukur -

of Federal Government revenue National Assembly, and sometimes generating agencies will be activated commencing with the Nigeria Customs Service and the Federal Inland Revenue Service.

This was disclosed by the Chairman of ICPC, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding ( MoU) by the two agencies in Abuja recently. The event which marked the formal launch of the media and top hierarchy of both organisations.

Speaking during the event, Professor Owasanoye said "a radical formalize the relationship that has been incubating for some months in has set Nigeria back".

andmark collaboration He explained that the relationship with between the Independent the Auditor-General was to initiate Corrupt Practices and Other new strategies and efforts to block Related Offences Commission leakages in Nigeria's revenue (ICPC) and the Office of Auditor-generating systems which General for the Federation accountability mechanisms have been (OAuGF) to carry out audits as well dysfunctional. "The Auditor-General's as system study and review exercises office does its work and sends to the



partnership was attended by the until it is debated and made public, other law enforcement agencies may not be privy to it", he lamented, noting that things were about to change for the better.

problem requires a radical solution. Prof. Owasanoye also reiterated the What we are doing today is to three-pronged mandate of the Commission as being investigation/prosecution; carrying order to deal with corruption which out preventive measures through systems review of government agencies

and public education.

He added that what the collaboration hoped to achieve was to tackle at the very root, the factors that lead to revenue loss, diversions, infractions, etc., and quickly punish based on ICPC legislation.

According to the Chairman, last year, ICPC in its effort to fulfill its mandate, focused on the utilization of the Personnel Cost of about 208 MDAs and was able to restrain over N40 Billion from being misspent. "Therefore, we would start this assignment by focusing on revenue generating agencies, looking at their systems through specialized audits. We solicit the cooperation of the agencies we are to start with because the intention is to find wrong and deal with it decisively" he emphasized.

On his part, the Auditor-General of the Federation, Anthony M. Ayine, said that the partnership would entail a joint work-plan and joint visits; and that it would send a strong signal to Nigerians that the fight against corruption had taken on a new level.



#### Anti-Corruption: I will waive Immunity if called to question, says Oyo State Governor

By Inalegwu Shaibu

he Oyo State governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde, has insisted that he will not hesitate to waive his immunity, if called to question concerning corruption.

The governor, who spoke at the commissioning of a newly built state office of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other

The governor also commended ICPC, observing that the Commission had set a high standard in fighting corruption, which should be emulated by other federal government agencies in the state.

According to him, "I must commend ICPC for the studious methods it has adopted in carrying

Also commenting on the new office, the governor said it was a testament of ICPC's resolve to diminish corruptive tendencies within the state.

Earlier, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, said that the new office was the beginning of a process that would end rental of office accommodation across the 15 states where the Commission was present.

Owasanoye added that two new prototype offices were at advanced stages of completion in Sokoto and Adamawa states respectively.

The new office is a one-storey building with a conference room and five other purpose built office rooms that include investigation room and detention facilities.

Present at the commissioning were Chairmen and Members of the National Assembly Anti-Corruption Committees, top security heads including the General Officer Commander (GOC) 2 Division, Nigerian Army, Major General A. B. Omosogie, Attorneys-General of Oyo, Ogun and Osun States, Speaker of the Oyo State House of Assembly and many other top state government functionaries.



Related Offences Commission (ICPC), in Ibadan, said that his decision would help set the tone for an effective anti-corruption fight in the state.

Makinde, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Olubamiwo Adeosun, stressed that the fight against corruption must be taken seriously by all stakeholders to address the many problems it has caused Nigeria.

He said, "We cannot really go far in achieving our objectives if we allow corruption to maintain its hold on the system. That is why we are not mincing words on this issue of waiving my own immunity if there is any reason to call me to question."

out its three-pronged mandate of enforcement, prevention and public education. This has led to the conviction of many public officers and the prosecution of many more.

'I have been made to understand that in the area of prevention, ICPC has carried out system studies and corruption risk assessments of a number of government agencies"

He said the state was adopting ICPC's approach in deepening the anti-corruption war especially the setting up of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTU) in Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the state.





## ICPC partners Supreme Court against Corruption

By Inalegwu Shaibu

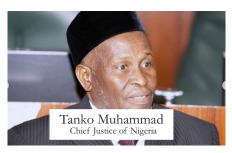
he Supreme Court has offered to assist the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to tackle the problems of corruption in Nigeria.

Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad, who made the offer when top management of ICPC paid him a courtesy visit, said that the enormous task of fighting corruption before ICPC required the Apex court to support the Commission.

He said, "The judiciary, especially the Supreme Court is all out to give you a helping hand in trying to see that all traces of corruption are reduced.

We are urging you, wherever you

think that something is wrong with the judiciary, please draw our attention to it, be it Area Court, Magistrate and so on, it will be



dealt with."

Earlier, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, said that delay in some judicial processes such as service of notices, issuance of bankers' orders, arrest warrants and rulings were holding down the work of the Commission. He lamented that government often times, suffered great loss because huge sums of money in bank accounts of suspects under investigation are usually diverted due to the delays in the court processes.

He said, "There are many cases at the lower court where apparent perversion of court processes exists. For instance, tardiness to avail copies of order and rulings until the time elapsed, or to give orders, such as bankers' order and arrest warrant."

The Chairman, who commended the efforts of the Apex court in the anti-corruption fight, pleaded that corruption cases should be prioritized in the courts.

## Speedy Conclusion of Corruption Case: FCT High Court designates 12 Judges

By Inalegwu Shaibu

he Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Justice Ishaq Bello, has said that 12 new judges would be specifically designated to handle corruption cases in order to speed up the process of prosecuting indicted offenders.

Justice Ishaq, in a meeting with the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, said that the 12 new judges would be in addition to others already dedicated to handling corruption cases.

He said: "I will dedicate 12 judges out of the 32 new judges that are coming on board mainly for adjudication of corruption cases. This I believe would help with the quick prosecution of corruption cases coming before the court."

The Chief Judge however asked ICPC to conduct specialized trainings for the incoming judges to familiarize them with happenings around the anti-corruption world. According to him, "We need immediate training, particularly in the area of forfeiture which is crucial to the nation."

Earlier, Professor Owasanoye had complained that some processes such as difficulty in obtaining court and banker's orders were frustrating the work of ICPC.

"Obtaining orders to aid our investigation like banker's orders, arrest warrants and others are difficult to get. When we struggle to get these orders, what happens is that the money takes flight before the orders come which then makes our work difficult.", he observed.

The ICPC boss also spoke about the delay in the time between the filing of the Commission's cases and the actual time that it would be assigned. He lamented that it sometimes took up to six months for a filed case to be assigned to a judge.

Justice Bello, in his response, assured the Commission of the readiness of the court to contribute positively to the anti-corruption drive of the government, adding that there were reforms in the High Court of FCT, towards addressing the problems raised by ICPC.

One of such reforms, he said, was digitalizing all the court's processes in accordance with the High Court of FCT Practice Directions.



#### Preventing Financial Crimes in the Global System: Owasanoye appointed Member, UN High Level FACTI Panel

By Roseline Maduako

Corrupt Practices and resources equitably. Other Related Offences

he Chairman, Independent ending financial opacity, and mobilizing



Commission (ICPC), Professor. Bolaji Owasanoye, has been appointed a member of the United International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel).

Launched on 2nd March, 2020, the FACTI Panel was established jointly by H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, and H.E. Mona Juul, the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, against the background of escalating issues of tax evasion, tax avoidance, money laundering and corruption, especially in an era of digital economic activity; and the pressing need for the world to put more effort into preventing financial crimes, creating level playing fields,

The Panel is tasked with making recommendations to address gaps, impediments and vulnerabilities in Nations High-Level Panel on international institutional and legal frameworks related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity in the global financial system, which according to Panel Co-Chair, Dr. Dalia Grybauskaitė, former President of Lithuania, 'was overdue for changes'.

> Dr. Grybauskaitė made this assertion during the recent inaugural meeting of the Panel, which was held on a virtual platform due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

> Underscoring the significance of the Panel's task in facilitating such changes, Co-Chair, and former Prime Minister of Niger, Dr. Ibrahim Maiyaki, stated during the meeting that "In this time of global crisis instigated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of robust, reliable public resources becomes especially clear. I look forward to

working closely with fellow Panel members to make recommendations toward a less porous, more equitable financial system."

In addition, Dr. Grybauskaitė expressed the hope that the FACTI Panel would provide some of the building blocks for a more just and equitable financial system after the COVID-19 crisis.

The FACTI Panel consists of 17 members drawn from policymakers, academia, civil society and the private sector. The other members include:

- Ms. Benedicte Schilbred Fasmer, Member, Executive Board of Norges Bank, Norway;
- Mr. Karim Daher, Managing Partner, Hadad Baroud Daher -Tria Law Firm and Director, Lebanese Association for Taxpayers' Rights and Information, Lebanon;
- Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Dean and Executive Secretary, International Anti-Corruption Academy, Austria.
- Ms. Annet Wanyana Oguttu, Professor at University of Pretoria, South Africa;
- Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul,



#### Preventing Financial Crimes in the Global System: Owasanoye appointed Member, UN High Level FACTI Panel

#### Continued from page 19

former Minister for Development, Germany;

- Ms. Irene Ovonji-Odida, Former Member AU/ECA High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa (Mbeki Panel), and former Chair of the board of ActionAid International, Uganda;
- Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Professor at Columbia University, Board of Governors of Banco de la República (Central Bank of Colombia), former Finance Minister, Colombia;
- · Ms. Magdalena Sepulveda

- Carmona, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Chile;
- Ms. Manorma Soeknandan, Deputy Secretary General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Suriname;
- Mr. Shahid Hafiz Kardar, Vice-Chancellor, Beacon House National University, former Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan;
- Ms. Susan Rose-Ackerman, Professor of Law at Yale

University, USA;

- Ms. Tarisa Watanagase, former Governor, Bank of Thailand, Thailand;
- Mr. Yu Yongding, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China; and
- Mr. Yury Fedotov, former Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Russia;

### ICPC Commences Phase 2 of Projects Tracking Exercise

By Femi Gold

Pollowing the success recorded in the first phase of the constituency and executive projects tracking exercise conducted in 12 states of the federation in 2019, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is set to begin the implementation of the second phase.

The exercise, which commenced Tuesday 23rd June, 2020 in 16 states, namely: Cross River, Taraba, Ekiti, Ogun, Gombe, Nasarawa, Kebbi, Kwara, Jigawa, Abia, Delta, Ebonyi, Niger, Rivers, Oyo, and Kaduna and is focused on the following sectors: Health, Education, Water Resources, Agriculture, and Power.

Some of the objectives of the tracking exercise are: to investigate

fraudulent procurement practices in the award of contracts for constituency and executive projects; make recoveries on projects or contracts confirmed to have been inflated or in which contractors underperformed or did not perform at all; and track contracting companies for all statutory compliance.

The Commission, in 2019, launched the pilot phase of the exercise in which it tracked projects performance from 2015 to 2019 in 12 states. Successes of the exercise included the recoveries of tractors, ambulances, dialysis machines and other hospital equipment from sponsors of the projects across the pilot states.

The successes also included the recovery of huge sums of money, hundreds of tricycles, grinding machines and other empowerment items from the project sponsors.

Furthermore, the exercise forced contractors who, hitherto, had abandoned projects to return to site to complete them.

ICPC is again set to take the exercise to states not covered in the pilot phase with the aim of ensuring that government gets value in the execution of public projects, and improved delivery of social welfare services to the citizens. Just as the first phase, the project tracking will be done in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Media, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) and other stakeholders.



## Sale of FGN Houses: ICPC recovers N28.2m from Defaulters

By Inalegwu Shaibu

he Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), has recently handed over N28.2 million it recovered from defaulters in the sale of federal government houses to the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA).

This is in addition to over N3.8 billion the Commission had previously recovered for FCDA since 2017 when it began tracking down beneficiaries of the Federal Government's housing owner-occupier scheme for government workers who had defaulted in their payments and those who had out rightly refused to pay.

The federal government had in

2005, introduced a policy which allowed public servants to buy-off government houses and pay back over a period of time.

However, many of the buyers defaulted in their payments after paying the initial sums that gave them the right of ownership of the properties while some others completely failed to make any payments, prompting FCDA to contact ICPC for help in recovering the monies from the defaulters.

Mr. Olatunji Jabaru of Asset Tracing, Recovery and Management Unit, ICPC, who handed over the money to the representative of FCDA, Mrs. Omole Segun, noted that effort was on-going to recover more money from the defaulters. The money handed over was in bank cheques of N10 million, N8.2 million and another N10 million.

In her remark after receiving the cheques, Mrs. Segun, who represented the Director, Ad-Hoc Committee on the Sale of Government Property, FCDA, Mr. Muhammad Umar Baffa, lauded the efforts of the Commission which had led to the recovery of huge sums of money for the government.

She added that the working relationship between ICPC and FCDA would ensure that more defaulters were made to pay up.

## Draft National Ethics and Integrity Policy: ICPC, Partners, hold Virtual Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders

By Ufot Edet

ith an overarching objective to halt the slide in Nigeria's ethical values, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), has convened a meeting of stakeholders to consult with them on a draft National Ethics and Integrity Policy about to be presented to the Federal Government for adoption.

The meeting was held on a Zoom virtual platform and had in attendance representatives of major

sections of the country's public and private sectors including the media, professional bodies, chambers of commerce, religious associations, traditional rulers, MDAs, youth groups, civil society organisations, etc.

Welcoming participants to the meeting and setting its tone, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, said it was convened to only discuss the "structure of the ethics and integrity policy", noting that it was not a discussion on what collapsed Nigeria's ethical values nor a discussion on what activities and sanctions would be applicable for violations of ethical standards. According to him, all those and more would be subjected to wide stakeholder consultations after the

adoption of the framework by government.

Prof. Owasanoye therefore urged them to feel free to make their inputs into the structures or pillars of the policy.

In his own opening remarks, the Director-General of NOA, Dr. Garba Abari, linked the nation's ethics crisis with the negative effects of globalization, while a dvocating a critical brainstorming on how the contents of the policy would be taken to "every Nigerian in the most pedestrian manner that not only inspires them to own it, but to submit to its principles..."



## Draft National Ethics and Integrity Policy: ICPC, Partners, hold Virtual Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders

#### Continued from page 21

The Permanent Secretary, Political and Economic Affairs Office, Mr. Andrew Adejo, who represented the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, remarked that the policy was very important to government at this time given that previous attempts to institute national ethics policies had met with little success.

He noted that the policy was coming at an auspicious time as going forward, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of business dealings would be virtual and would therefore rely heavily on partners' integrity. Mr. Adejo also commended ICPC and its partners for the initiative and opined that if well implemented, the policy would drive down corruption and make ICPC's work easier. He concluded by saying that government was looking forward to receiving the final document that would emerge from the consultations for further necessary actions.

After the opening segment, the event went into a Technical Session moderated by the Chairman of ICPC, featuring paper presentations. First among the presenters was Mr. AbbiaUdofia, Director, Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Department of ICPC. In his paper titled: Legal Basis for a National Ethics and Integrity Policy, he traced the enablement of the policy to several extant legal instruments in the country including the 1999 Constitution, the ICPC Act 2000, EFCC Act and others.

On his own part, the DG of NOA, who presented the next paper titled: Framework for Citizen-Driven Ethical Revolution, laid emphasis on the need to place the citizen on the "driver's seat of this initiative in order to enlist their buy-in..." by taking the policy's contents to him in the language he most easily understands.

The third presentation was by Dr. Cephas Lerewonu, Lead Consultant, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC) of the British Council. It was titled: Core Values of an Ethics and Integrity Policy. According to the presenter, the draft policy was the product of an extensive international and national research work which has, embedded in it, the values of respect for individual dignity; voice and participation; patriotism; personal responsibility; integrity; national unity; and professionalism.

Mr. Soji Apampa, who made the last presentation entitled: Public-Private Ethical Revolution- What we Need, posited that regulations and regulatory actions should always be in the public interest and not for the benefit of a few, stressing that rules should be applied fairly across board to elicit voluntary compliance.

During the interactive session, many of the participants

advocated for the inculcation of the policy into the educational curricular of the nation's institutions; some drew attention to the corruptive tendencies of the country's politics and politicians, noting that the latter had a responsibility of "allowing" the policy to work; while others still urged the introduction of sanctions and a determined sensitization and mobilization of citizens through the media and all available platforms to ensure that the policy works.

Some of the participants who spoke during this session included Dr. George Ehusani of Lux Terra Foundation; Prof. Usman Muhammad, National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs; Rev. Israel Akanji, Christian Association of Nigeria; Dr. Grace Chinda, Board Member, ICPC; Mr. Boboi Kaigama, Trade Union Congress; Mr Musa Rafsanjani, CISLAC; and Mr. Suleiman Sani, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria.

Others included Mr. Okhiria Agbonsuremi, PRIMORG; Mr. Yusuf Alli, The Nation Newspaper; Mr. Oganya Simon, representative of the DG of NTA; Mr. Akin Fadeyi, Akin Fadeyi Foundation; etc.

In his closing remarks at the end of the interactive session, the Chairman of ICPC assured that some of the issues raised had been anticipated but that once the policy was adopted by government, implementation strategies would be fashioned out to ensure that it succeeds.



#### ICPC advises Defence Media Operations on Information Integrity

By Hassan Salihu

Offences Commission (ICPC), has advised the Directorate of Defence Media Operations (DMO) to ensure information integrity through ascertaining dependability and trust worthiness of

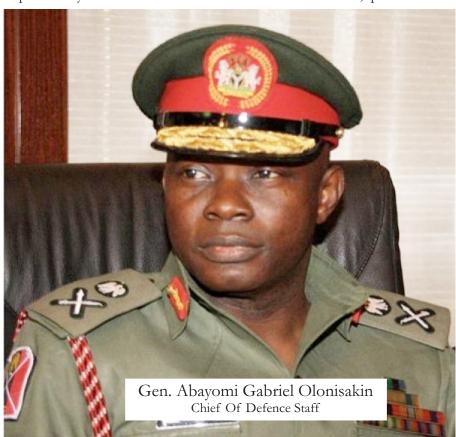
he Independent Corrupt stressed that ensuring information operations. Practices and Other Related integrity was possible if the Directorate stored and archived the This, according to General military operational information and Enenche, the Directorate provides data at the DMO's website for the use updates on Joint military and of the media and others. Thus, the security operations and activities of accuracy, consistency and reliability of some of the following operations:

information contents, processes and Lafiya Dole in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe states; Hadarin Daji in Zamfara, Sokoto, Kaduna, Katsina and Niger states; Whirl Stroke in Benue and Nasarawa states. Thunder Stroke in Kaduna – Abuja Highway/Railway.

> Others are Awase in Lagos and Ogun states; Safe Haven in Plateau and Kaduna states; Delta Safe in Oil Producing states and Safe Corridor for the de-radicalization and integration of surrendered terrorists.

> The briefing brought together the following critical stakeholders as part of the strategic meeting towards better synergy and understanding:ICPC, Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Service (DSS), Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Correctional Service, Civil Society and Media Organizations.

General Enenche further stated that the members of DMO management team were experienced officers capable of effectively delivering the mandate of the Directorate. They are: The Director of Directorate, Brigadier General Ben E. Onyeuko, Colonel Umar Aliyu, Army Liaison Officer, Commander Abdulsalam Sani, Navy Liaison Officer and Squadron Leader A.E. Obidake, Air Force Liaison officer.



information in the media management of Armed Forces joint operations, peace keeping and other combat operations of the Nigerian troops.

The Chairman of the Commission, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, represented by an Assistant Commissioner, Hassan Salihu, gave this advisory during the sensitization briefing on the establishment of the Directorate of Defence Media Operations, recently held at the Defence Headquarters, Garki-Abuja.

Professor Owasanoye, further

systems are preserved.

This according to the ICPC Chairman would also serve as a depository of credible primary source of authentic information, thus, preventing unwanted and fake information on military operations.

In his remarks, the DMO Coordinator, Major General John Enenche, stated that the Directorate of Defence Media Operations viewed as necessary to sensitize relevant stakeholders on its responsibility of media management on Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies during special



### ICPC Case: Former Kogi State Commissioner for Agriculture bags 19 Years Jail Term

By Sani Tukur Tarauni (in Lokoja)

Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), has secured the conviction of Mr. Zachaeus Atte, a former Commissioner for Agriculture in Kogi State.

Mr. Atte was convicted on corruption charges by a Kogi State High Court, sitting in Okene and presided over by Hon. Justice J.J. Majebi. He was found guilty on seven out of the 11 counts of the charge preferred against him by the Commission.

The convict, who is to serve a total of 19-year jail term, was sentenced to five years each on counts one and three without an option of fine, for collecting the sum of N20.8 million meant for "the raising and distribution of Oil Palm Sprouted Nuts Seedlings" to cocoa farmers

he Independent Corrupt in Kogi State, but did not raise nor transportation costs of the farmers



contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

He was also sentenced on count two to five years imprisonment without an option of fine, for receiving the sum of N350, 000:00 being amount earmarked to defray the

distribute same. This is an offence during the cocoa seedlings distribution exercise but failed to do so. This is also an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the ICPC Act.

> The former Commissioner was further sentenced to one year imprisonment each on counts eight, nine and 11 for spending from the sum of N2, 849, 953:75K being amount earmarked for the purchase of office equipment on what he called State-wide Sensitization Tour; visit to Lagos from Lokoja on issues of power tiller; and video coverage contrary to and punishable under section 22(5) of the ICPC Act, 2000.

> While reading his judgment, the trial Judge, justified the conviction of the defendant by noting that the ICPC Legal team had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt.

## ICPC docks Staff of Federal Ministry of Health over Age Falsification

By Sam Damdakalak (in Kaduna)

Ministry of Health has been Independent Corrupt Practices and falsification with a Declaration of Age. defendant, he pleaded not guilty. Other Related Offences altering an official document to falsify his age and confer an unfair advantage upon himself.

Mr. Ibrahim Yusuf Nda, a Chief Administrative Officer at the Nurse Tutors Program of the Federal Ministry of Health in Kaduna State, was brought before Justice M. T. M. Court 4, on a three-count charge bordering on forgery and conferring

staff of the Federal altering his date of birth in his Act, 2000 and punishable under the personal file with No. P21966 from same section. ⊾arraigned in court by the 1957 to 1967 and supporting the When the charge was read to the

Commission (ICPC) for allegedly According to the charge, the intent reminded the court of their earlier was for him to extend his service year application for bail, which was not with the Federal Ministry of Health opposed by the Prosecuting from 2017 to 2027 thereby Counsel, Ahmad Muhammad committing an offence of forgery Wada. contrary to Section 363 and punishable by Section 364 of the Penal The court thereafter admitted the Code Cap 110 Laws of Kaduna State, defendant to bail in the sum of 1991.

Aliyu, of the Kaduna State High Nda's alleged offence of conferring relative and a public officer not unfair advantage on himself is also below the rank of an Assistant contrary to Section 19 of the Corrupt Director. unfair advantage on himself by Practices and Other Related Offences

His counsel, A. I. Zubairu,

One Million Naira with one surety in like sum who must be a blood



## Possession of Counterfeit Bank Notes: ICPC Secures 160 Years Jail Term for Woman, 3 Others

By Aliyu Garba (in Yola)

Federal High Court sitting in Yola, Adamawa State, has sentenced four persons, including a woman to 160 years imprisonment on a multiple-count charge of conspiracy and possession of counterfeit bank notes.

Hon. Justice Abdul'Azeez Anka, who handed down the sentences to the convicts in the case brought by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), ruled that they will spend 10 years in prison on each of the four counts preferred against them.

According to ICPC officers who handled the matter, three of the convicts, Hadiza Adamu Bello, a woman, Mohammed Dauda and Bello Salisu had in March 2017, left Kaduna and were joined by the fourth convict, Ali Adamu, from Kano, to meet a native doctor, Hassan Bello, who was a counterfeiter at Wamdeo Uba. Borno State, with the intention to procure about N5 million counterfeit bank notes to exchange for about N1 million genuine bank notes from a Customs officer.

The deal with the Customs officer did not go through for undisclosed reasons. However, as they made their way back, they were caught at a checkpoint on Girei - Yola Road, with counterfeit N1000 bank notes to the value of N5, 504, 000 by soldiers on duty and subsequently handed over to ICPC.

Investigation launched by ICPC operatives led them to the residence of the counterfeiter at Wamdeo Uba, where he was arrested. A search conducted within the premises revealed more counterfeit N1000 bank notes reading the same serial number to the value of N26,

At the conclusion of investigations, except for Bello Salisu, who was charged with abetment to commit an offence of possession of counterfeit bank notes, the other four suspects, including the native doctor counterfeiter, were arraigned on a 4-count charge of

being in possession of counterfeit bank notes which is an offence contrary to Sections 5(1) (b) and 6(2) (b), and punishable under Section 5(1) (c) of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provisions) Act, cap. C35, LFN 2004.

All the accused persons were also charged with conspiracy to commit an offence of possession of counterfeit bank notes, which is contrary to Section 6(2) (b) and punishable under Section 5 (1) (c) of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provisions) Act CAP C35, LFN 2004.

In his ruling, Justice Anka found the accused persons guilty on each of the four counts and sentenced them to a cumulative 40 years imprisonment each, although the sentences will run concurrently.

However, Hassan Bello, the native doctor counterfeiter, could not be sentenced due to his death shortly before the judgment was delivered, thus his name was struck out.

### ICPC Case: Court orders Arrest of NIMC's Principal Manager over N12.8M Contract Scam

By Inalegwu Shaibu

Federal High Court, Abuja, has issued a bench warrant for the arrest of a Principal Manager with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Ms. Jamila Ahmad Muhammad, for failure to appear in court over allegations of

corruption.

Muhammad and a former Director-General of the Security and Exchange Gwarzo is facing a 6-count Commission (SEC), Mounir Gwarzo, are being prosecuted by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) over their complicity in N12.8

million contract scams.

charge bordering on abuse of office for awarding several contracts to Outbound Investment Limited, a private



## ICPC Case: Court orders Arrest of NIMC's Principal Manager over N12.8M Contract Scam

#### Continued from page 25

company where he doubled as a Director even while he was DG of SEC.

On her own part, Ms. Muhammad, as Director of Outlook Communication Limited, is facing an 8-count charge of gratification and abuse of office, for running a private company while in the employment of the federal government, as her company was awarded contracts to the tune of N4, 372, 080 by SEC.

According to ICPC, their actions were contrary to Sections 12 and 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, and punishable under the same sections.

Ms. Muhammad's offences, according to the charge sheet included allegedly receiving N4,372,080 contracts through her company, for the production of radio jingles on E-Dividend for broadcast in the three

northern zones of the country, including N1, 080, 000 for the production of the same jingles in



Hausa and Pidgin languages.

The arraignment of both accused persons was slated for Tuesday 18th February, 2020 before Justice O. A. Adeniyi, but for the absence of Ms. Muhammad, who was said to be sick and on admission at the National Hospital, Abuja.

The Defense Counsel, S. M. Yusuf, told the court, "The second defendant is sick. I confirmed from people close to her that she is in National Hospital."

The Counsel to ICPC, George Lawal, while responding to the argument prayed the court to issue a bench warrant on the accused, maintaining that there was no medical report to back the claim of illhealth by her Counsel.

Justice Adeniyi, after listening to both counsel, ruled that Ms. Muhammad should be arrested immediately and kept in ICPC custody.

## Alleged Receipt of Salary Overpayments: ICPC arraigns Staff of Nigerian Correctional Service

By Winifred Ingobro

Ondo State for alleged fraudulent receipt of salary overpayments.

the Court on a seven-count charge that borders on dishonesty and corruption.

The Independent Corrupt According to the particulars of the Practices and Other Related case, at various times in 2012, while Offences Commission being a public officer in the (ICPC), has arraigned Mrs. Opadule employment of the then Nigerian Caroline Abimbola, a former staff Prisons Service, Ondo State of the Nigerian Correctional Command, the accused person was Service, Ondo State Command, allegedly overpaid through her First before Justice Olabode Adegbengbe Bank Salary account, amounts that of High Court 5, sitting in Akure, were far above her monthly remuneration, totaling N1.2 million. Instead of reporting the overpayment to the Finance and Accounts Mrs. Opadule was arraigned before Department of her organization, she refused to do so and was investigated by ICPC.

> When the charges were read in Court to the accused person, counts one to five

of the charge sheet stated that at various times in 2012, she was outrageously paid amounts that were far above her monthly statutory remuneration, thereby committing fraudulent receipt of property, an offence contrary to Section 13 and punishable under Section 68 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

In the sixth count, the accused person was said to have made a false statement to a public officer, thereby committing an offence

#### **ICPC NEWS**



## Alleged Receipt of Salary Overpayments: ICPC arraigns Staff of Nigerian Correctional Service

contrary to Section 25 (1) (a) and punishable under Section 25 (1) (b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

Finally, the last count stated that she used her office to confer corrupt advantage on herself, thereby committing an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

Mrs. Opadule pleaded not guilty to all the charges and her Counsel, A. O. Oluwole made an oral application for bail, which was not opposed by the Prosecution Counsel, Kehinde Adetoye.

The accused person was therefore granted must be on Grade Level 10 or bail by the Judge on the conditions that



she should make a payment of N1.5 million and provide 2 sureties in like sum, while one of the sureties must be in the employment of the state government and above.

In addition, the two sureties must provide evidence of tax payment in the last two years, while also entering into a Bond of Notice with the Court to produce the accused person. Also, they should provide evidence of land ownership within the jurisdiction of the Court.

The defendant has been remanded in the Ondo State Command of the Correctional Service until she satisfies the bail conditions.

## Fake PhD Certificate: ICPC Arraigns Ex-Poly Rector

By Winifred Ingobro

former Rector of Igbajo University of Ibadan. Polytechnic in Osun State, charge bordering on alleged forgery Act. and making false statement.

State.

sometime in February 2003, the Section 25 (1) (b) of the same Act. accused person presented to Igbajo

Mr. Ola olu Akinola His action was contrary to Section 25 (1) was an offence of forgery, Olugbenga, has been arraigned by the (a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other contrary to Section 465 of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Act 2000 and Criminal Code Act and Other Related Offences Commission punishable under Section 25 (1) (b) of the punishable under Section 467 (ICPC) before Justice Wasiu Oladejo same Act. It was also contrary to Section of the same Act. Akanbi of Osun State High Court 2, 465 of the Criminal Code Act and The accused person pleaded sitting in Oshogbo, on a 4-count punishable under Section 467 of the same not guilty to all the charges

Part of the charge sheet read in Court lawyer pleaded with the court Mr. Olugbenga was accused of stated that during investigation by ICPC, to grant him bail. procuring a forged Doctor of the accused person knowingly made false Philosophy (PhD) Certificate from statement that his Doctor of Philosophy He was obliged by Justice the University of Ibadan with which Degree Programme was completed in Akanbi in line with the terms he used to gain employment into 2002 and he was given notification in of the administrative bail Igbajo Polytechnic, Igbajo, Osun 2003, thereby committing an offence that earlier granted the accused by is contrary to Section 25 (1) (a) of the ICPC, with the additional Corrupt Practices and Other Related condition that his sureties must ICPC's findings revealed that Offences Act, 2000 and punishable under be civil servants of Grade

Polytechnic a forged notification of The ex-Rector was also alleged to have court. The judge also added result that showed the conferment of presented a forged notification of result that they should produce N5 a Doctorate Degree on him by the document to the management of Igbajo million each in like sum.

Polytechnic with the intent to pass it off as genuine, which

when they were read to him and by way of oral application, his

Level 14 or above, working within the jurisdiction of the



### FIIRO Acting DG's PhD Controversy: ICPC makes Clarification

n the past few weeks, the alleged certificate scandal involving the Acting Director-General of the Federal Institute for Industrial Research (FIIRO), Oshodi, Mr. Chima Igwe, has been entangled in a lot of controversy.

To clear the air and fulfill its pledge to make public its findings on the matter, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), hereby places on public record the outcome of its further investigations.

The Commission re-opened investigations into the status of Mr. Igwe's pursuit of a PhD degree on the 3rd of December, 2019 upon the discovery of certain gaps, occasioned by ambiguity in the letters from University D'Abomey Calavi, Republic of Benin, language differences and

translation of documents, in the earlier investigation.

In the course of its further investigation, the ambiguity and confusing language translation issue again reared its head when the institution, in its letter to the Nigerian Mission in Benin dated 22nd January 2020, which stated as translated that '...Mr. Chima Carthney Igwe has completed his three-year doctoral programme", yet the same correspondence further stated that Mr. Igwe had not publicly defended his doctoral thesis and the institution was giving him a chance, at his request, to re-register and update his research results in the current 2019-2020 academic year. It stands to reason therefore that if the PhD programme was concluded there would have been no need to request re-registration by Mr. Igwe.

Although it was confirmed that Mr.

Igwe did the required three years for the programme from 1999 to 2002 and wrote a thesis, the Commission is firmly of the opinion that he cannot be said to have been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree since he is yet to complete the process of defence of his thesis in the 18 years after he is said to have finished the course work. By global standards, the successful defence of a thesis is a compulsory condition for the award of a PhD.

Therefore, in line with its avowed commitment to discharging its duties with professionalism and responsibility the Commission has since communicated its most recent findings and position

## ICPC Case: Appeal Court affirms 12-year Jail Term for Ex-Kwara Poly Governing Board Chair

By Advent Boniface

Governing Council of Kwara State Polytechnic, Dr. Sa'adu Alanamu.

Dr. Alanamu who was nominated State High Court 9. into the Board of the Independent

The Court of Appeal sitting (ICPC) in 2017 but was later dropped on in Ilorin, the Kwara State an allegation of corruption had earlier capita, l has upheld the been found guilty of collecting N5, judgment of a High Court which 000,000 bribe from a contractor friend handed down a 12-year jail term to of his as kickback for the award of a a former Chairman of the contract and was consequently sentenced to 12 years imprisonment without any option of fine by Hon. Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of Kwara

Corrupt Practices and Other Dissatisfied with the sentence, the Related Offences Commission former Governing Council Chairman

approached the appellate court, urging it to quash the judgment of the trial court.

Having listened to the arguments from both the prosecution and the defence counsel, the Court of Appeal upheld the judgment of the lower court and dismissed Alanamu's appeal for lack of



## Pilgrims Board Executive Secretary bags 5 year Jail Sentence

By Aliyu Garba (in Yola)

Israel to his personal use, the Executive Secretary of the Adamawa Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board, Dr. Jinga Mayo, is to spend the next five years in jail.

This was the outcome of the judgment of the Adamawa State High Court, presided over by Justice Nathan Musa, in a case brought before it by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

ICPC had arraigned Dr. Mayo before the court on a threecount charge for embezzlement, and for making false statement.

members of the Adamawa State

or converting the sum of member the said committee,, 69.2 million received to contrary to and punishable under execute pilgrims operation in Section 16 of the Corrupt Practices



and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

In count one, he was charged for In count two, he was accused of knowingly furnishing false return of conferring corrupt advantage upon the sum of N69,198,600.00 himself, contrary to and punishable received by him to pay committee under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Christian Pilgrims Board for 2016 Act, 2000, when he received the sum pilgrims operations in Israel, which of N69,198,600.00 cash, from the he did not pay but for which he Board's Accounts Department in returned duly signed payment order to pay the committee members vouchers and acknowledgement of of the Adamawa State Christian receipts of the payment by each Pilgrims Welfare Board for 2016

pilgrims exercise in Israel which he converted to his personal use and falsely claimed that the said money was used to pay for an agricultural training conducted in Israel.

While In count three, Dr. Mayo, was charged for knowingly making false statement to an officer of the ICPC, contrary to section 25 (1 (a) and punishable under Section 25 (1 (b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

In his judgement, Justice Nathan Musa, found him guilty only on two counts and acquitted him on one. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment on the 2nd count without an option of fine, and six months imprisonment on the 3rd count with an option of N50,000. He is however to spend five years in prison, as the sentence is to run concurrently.

After the judgement, the convict was immediately transferred to officials of Adamawa State correctional facilities in Jimeta by the operatives of the Commission.

#### ICPC finally arraigns Ex-SEC DG Gwarzo, Co-Accused over alleged N12.8M Contract Scam

By Inalegwu Shaibu

Related Offences efforts to dock him. Commission (ICPC) has finally Gwarzo was arraigned before Justice contract scam.

√he Independent Corrupt Mounir Gwarzo, before a Federal High M s . J a m i l a A h m a d Practices and Other Court, Abuja, after previous failed Muhammad, for allegedly

arraigned the former Director- A.O Adeniyi, alongside a Principal General of the Security and Manager with the National Identity The ex-SEC DG and Ms. Exchange Commission (SEC), Management Commission (NIMC),

engaging in a N12.8 million



#### ICPC finally arraigns Ex-SEC DG Gwarzo, Co-Accused over alleged N12.8M Contract Scam

#### Continued from page 29

public officers.

Outbound Investment Limited, a company. private company where he allegedly was DG of SEC.

the employment of the federal respectively. government as her company of N4, 372, 080 by SEC.

same sections.

Muhammad are facing a 14-count revealed that the former SEC boss, pleaded not guilty to the charge bordering on abuse of between December 2016 and March charge when it was read to office and receiving gratification as 2017, allegedly awarded contracts for the supply of 12 units of airconditioners, 16, 000 litres of diesel and Gwarzo was charged on 6 counts four units of refrigerators at the total for awarding several contracts to cost of N8, 454, 000 to his own

doubled as a Director even while he The air-conditioners and refrigerators were to be supplied to the Lagos Zonal office of SEC at the cost of N3, 499, Ms. Muhammad, on her part is 200, while a total of N4, 954, 400 was facing an 8-count charge of allegedly awarded for the supply of gratification and abuse of office for diesel to the headquarters on two running a private company while in occasions in February and March, 2017

Outlook Communication Limited, Ms. Muhammad's offences, as indicated was awarded contracts to the tune on the charge sheet, included allegedly receiving N4, 372, 080 contracts He ruled further that each of through her company for the the sureties must be resident ICPC told the court that their production of radio jingles on Eactions were contrary to Sections Dividend for broadcast in the three 12 and 19 of the Corrupt Practices northern zones of the country, and Other Related Offences Act, including N1, 080, 000 for the Director in the employment 2000, and punishable under the production of the same jingles in Hausa and Pidgin languages.

Details from the charge sheet Both Gwarzo and Ms. Muhammad

Their Counsel, O. A Dada and Sani Yusuf for Gwarzo and Ms. Muhammad respectively, moved applications for their bail which was not opposed by counsel to ICPC, George Lawal.

Justice Adeniyi, while ruling on the bail applications, granted each of the accused bail in the sum of N10 million each and one surety for each in like sum.

within the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and must not be below the rank of a of the federal government or the Federal Capital Territory Administration.

## ICPC docks former Court Registrar on Corruption Charges

By Sam Damdakalak

former Registrar with the Federal High Court, Kaduna Division, has been arraigned by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), before Hon. Justice M. T. M. Aliyu of the State High Court, Kaduna on

charges which bordered on criminal misappropriation and conferring of corrupt advantage upon himself.

Mr. Joseph Etefia Udoh was alleged to have intentionally and illegally converted to personal use, funds amounting to N76.2 million which were officially kept under his custody

by litigants, while he was the Registrar of the same court.

The defendant was said to have committed the offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000



## ICPC docks former Court Registrar on Corruption Charges

Continued from page 30

as well as contrary to Section 308 of motion which borders on other things that "the the Penal Code Law Cap 110 Law jurisdiction of the court to defendant has been admitted to of Kaduna State 1991 and entertain the case. punishable under Section 309 of the Penal Code Law Cap 110 Law Although the Prosecuting Counsel, of Kaduna State 1991.

read to him, he pleaded not guilty.

counsel, Elizabeth Yayock, trial. informed the court that they had court. She prayed the court to strike condition administered on the out one of the prayers in the defendant by the Federal High

Dorothy Suleman, did not object to the bail application, she however However, when the charges were urged the court to ensure that the bail conditions were such that would guarantee the appearance of Following his plea, the defence the defendant in court to face his

earlier filed an application for bail In his ruling on the bail application, which was pending before the the trial judge adopted the same bail Court, Kaduna, which states among matter.

bail in the sum of Ten Million Naira (N10, 000, 000:00) only, with two sureties in like sum who must be members of the legal profession and must have properties in Government Reserved Areas (GRA) in Kaduna".

It may be recalled that the defendant and his wife are also facing trial in the same court on money laundering charges brought against them by the Commission on the same

### COVID-19 Pandemic: ICPC sets up Funds Monitoring Team

Bv Ufot Edet

he Independent Corrupt receipts mobilised towards Related Offences Coronavirus in the country. Commission (ICPC) in the execution of its preventive The Team will deploy appropriate special intervention funds.

The Team will monitor the While the Commission salutes all

Practices and Other combating the outbreak of the

mandate in Section 6 (b)-(d) of the strategy to prevent incidences of Corrupt Practices and Other corruption that may have negative Related Offences Act, 2000, has impact on the efforts of government set up an independent COVID-19 to deal effectively with the pandemic Funds Monitoring Team charged and its work will complement the with the prevention of possible efforts of the Presidential Task financial abuses that may arise in Force on COVID-19 with regard to the management of the Covid-19 transparency and accountability in the management of the funds.

disbursement and utilisation of those in the frontline of battling the the funds, donations and other outbreak and everyone facilitating

the national effort behind the scene, it hereby reiterates its earlier advisory to all actors in the management chain of the COVID-19 response to steer clear of all unethical and corrupt acts that could result in criminal investigation and consequences.



## ICPC arraigns Former Lecturer over N6m Fraud

By Inalegwu Shaibu

WaziriUmaru Federal Polytechnic, Birnin - Kebbi, Mohammed Sani Nuhu, has been arraigned in court by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), for allegedly defrauding the school of N6 million.

ICPC, in a four-count charge, filed before Justice Usman Hassan, of the Kebbi State High Court, accused Mr. Nuhu of abuse of office when he allegedly diverted N6 million meant for attending a conference and paying for his post graduate studies, into personal use. Counsel to ICPC, Mashkur Salisu,

former lecturer with the told the court that his offence violated Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000 and Section 311 of the Penal Code.

> The court heard that the former lecturer was given N6 million grant by the Polytechnic in 2017, to enable him to attend an international conference in the United Kingdom and also pursue a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme in Malaysia.

> He was alleged to have failed to attend the conference as well as declined to embark on the post graduate studies after he was

> The accused pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him. His counsel, S. M.

Danyaro, prayed the court to grant him bail on liberal terms.

Counsel to ICPC who did not oppose the bail application however prayed the court to grant him bail on terms that would enable the accused to attend trial without fail.

Justice Hassan, while ruling on the bail application, granted the accused bail in the sum of N100, 000 and surety in like sum. The surety must be of good character and resident in Kebbi State. The matter was then adjourned to a later date for commencement of hearing.

## ICPC seizes Multi-Million Naira Landed Property from Bauchi State Governor

By Advent Boniface

ursuant to its powers contained in Section 45 (4) (a-c) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), has seized a multi-million naira property belonging to the Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed, formerly Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The property which houses Zinaria International School is located at Plot 298 Wuve District, Cadastral Zone B3, FCT, Abuja.

ICPC's intelligence-led investigation revealed that Senator

Mohammed in his official capacity as the In view of the provisions of FCT Minister, had allocated the said Section 308 of the 1999 property to a school that had himself and Constitution as amended, the family members as directors and charge which was pending shareholders, despite an existing right of before Hon. Justice Senchi of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture over FCT High Court 13, Jabi, was the land.

To this end, the Commission will issue by the court suo moto. notices of seizure and shall cause them to be served on the appropriate land registry, Following the notice of ministry and department where the seizure, the Commission property is situated as required by law.

Senator Mohammed had earlier been Section 48 of the ICPC Act in charged for using his office to confer line with the Federal corrupt advantage upon himself and Government Policy focusing relations under Section 19 of ICPC law on recovery of proceeds of but could not be arraigned before he was crime, pending when the sworn in as Governor of Bauchi State.

withdrawn by the Commission to forestall its being struck out

applies to the court for an order of forfeiture under tenure of the governor expires.



## ICPC COVID-19 Management; Anti- Corruption Advisory

s the nation reels from the effect of COVID-19, ICPC wishes to caution against increase in risky behaviour hinged on critical desire to respond to COVID-19.

From past experience, national emergencies and pandemics instigate need for proactive measures driven by local or national exigency such as the times that we are in. However, bearing in mind that the stark reality of the inadequacy and vulnerability of our health system cannot be separated from the negative effects and impact of persistent corruption in past years of the locusts, we caution against the exigency of the times resulting in further undermining the credibility and stability of Nigeria's health system including the wellbeing of those who operate therein and the citizens to be catered for.

Emergency response is not immune to corruption risks. As the threat to national livelihood increases, so do the vulnerabilities to dishonesty. Corrupt public and private sector individuals will again test the nation's anti-corruption architecture and commitment to integrity. It has happened before and may happen again.

We have seen corruption in past responses to –

- · managing the needs of internally displaced persons;
- treatment of persons affected by natural disasters or acts of God;
- · delivery of government palliatives for the poorest of

the poor;

- Implementation of policies to address critical economic vulnerabilities such as assistance to SME;
- programmes; improvement in education, promotion of agriculture etc.

These emergencies did not prick the conscience of greedy policy makers and public and private sector implementers of otherwise noble and responsive government policies not to exploit the dire situation to negative advantage. This very attitude of greed and impunity is what has consistently undermined positive outcomes from otherwise well thought-out national response programmes and laid-out plans that covered everything except keeping corruption in implementation at bay.

Therefore, ICPC, while commending the gallant role being played by all those currently involved in responding to this pandemic wishes to remind us of corruption vulnerabilities in COVID-19 management and response.

Please take note and avoid these pitfalls-

- 1. Corruption risks inherent in emergency procurement;
- 2. Non-compliance with laid-down procedures get necessary approvals. In emergencies approvals are not delayed;

- 3. Disregarding due diligence;
- 4. Neglecting post quarantine management and regulatory controls;
- 5. Ignoring financial control regulations and limits;
- 6. Engaging in conflict of interest, nepotism, padding, inflated costs and other risky behaviour in the name of emergency response.

This Advisory is not finger pointing at the health sector or its leaders and others in government and outside government who have sacrificially and admirably led our response to COVID-19 thus far. It is an opportunity for reflection and warning to all Nigerians at national and sub-national levels that it is wise to remember that keeping safe distancing from post-pandemic corruption investigation in any sector of the economy is as important as safe social distancing to prevent COVID-19.

The noble desire of government to ameliorate the pain of citizens in these difficult times should not be converted to another rue de la corruption. COVID-19 should not be used as excuse for corruption in any sector of the economy.

Better to be safe than sorry. Responding to this or any other emergency or implementation of government policy for that matter should not increase integrity deficit or risky behaviour.

Keep your social distance from corruption.



By Advent Boniface

s part of activities marking its 20 th Anniversary celebration and Nigeria's 60th year of nationhood, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other related Offences Commission

Other highlights of the Summit were judicial system that dispensed justice the presentation of Integrity Awards to two distinguished Nigerians, CSP. Francis Osagie Erhabor of the Nigeria Police Force and Mallam Hamza Adamu Buwai of the Federal Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment, for exhibiting

"We need to deploy resources to address our common needs rather than the greed of a callous few. We need a corruption-free public sector to achieve transformation, we need a

emphasized.

were needed.

judicial system that dispenses justice without undue delay and technicality. 'We need laws and legal system to be reformed to deliver justice to every citizen without regard to status and finally we need ethical re-orientation of the people to achieve this goal. When we work together against corruption we can defeat it," he

without undue delay and technicality

President Buhari also commended the Commission and OSGF for organizing the summit, noting that the programme was an "opportunity for the three arms of government to indicate their roles in meeting the aspirations of Nigerians to have a corruption-free society.

"I commend the ICPC for its enforcement and prevention measures including system review of capital and personnel budget, regular analysis of the open treasury platform, enforcement action against diversion and mismanagement of public funds, working with FIRS to increase the number of companies and persons within the tax net, tracking of constituency and executive projects, budget utilization

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Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), recently convoked the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Summit on Diminishing Corruption in the Public Sector at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

The Summit, which theme was "Together Against Corruption," witnessed the presentation of ICPC @ 20 Legacy Book, Nigeria Corruption Index, as well as the Presidential launch of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy. The Policy, which is for the "good and ethical conduct of the Nigerian citizenry" had earlier been approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on August 19, 2020.

exceptional acts of integrity; as well as presentation of Awards to Adeboye Opeyemi, Maltida Daniels and Chiekezi Favour as winners of ICPC Music and Essay (Senior and Junior Category) Competitions respectively.

Speaking during the Summit, President Muhammadu Buhari, described the theme of this year's summit Together Against Corruption, as apt, saying "Together as a nation, as a people, the three arms and three tiers of government working together, we can attack corruption and realize the vast potentials of our country."

The President noted that to attain the required transformation, a corruption-free public sector and a



Continued from page 34

for the benefit of ordinary Nigerians and the monitoring of implementation of budget of the Executive in key sector like the agriculture," he lauded.

The President further expressed satisfaction with the participation of young Nigerians and non-state actors at the event, stating that "nobody must be left behind and all hands must be on deck in the fight against corruption." He therefore urged all Nigerians to join the anticorruption fight of government in order to return the country to the path of development.

In his goodwill message, the President of the Nigerian Senate, Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, stated that the parliament was supporting the anti-graft fight through robust legislations, vigilant oversight as well as carrying out enquiries and investigations to expose corruption where necessary.

According to the Senate President, "Because of our constitutional powers of oversight, we have become conversant with the matrix of corruption and are then able to put together a robust legal framework to criminalize all manifestations of graft in and out of government."

'To support this fight against graft, we have our Legislative Anti-Corruption Strategy, (LACS), which seeks to do three things namely, provide robust legislation; conduct vigilant oversights as well as carry out inquiries and investigations to

expose corruption wherever it's found"

'The implementation of the above strategy will see to it that the legal framework being put in place, will ensure that the anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies are corruption."

The Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad, while making his contribution called for the rejigging of anti-corruption



independent, well-funded and open to oversight and public scrutiny."

Senator Lawan also revealed that "Our various committees, especially the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, as well as that on Judiciary, are carrying out legislative actions to enhance the effectiveness of agencies saddled with the task of preventing corruption and also giving more impetus to agencies in the enforcement sector of fighting

strategies and tactics, saying that anti-corruption fight should be waged without any extraneous consideration.

The apex court boss, therefore, enjoined law enforcement agencies to do their due diligence before prosecution of cases, pointing out that the act of prosecutors sourcing out evidence after trial had commenced was not only 'condemnable but it slows the



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adjudication of justice especially in the fight against corruption.'

Justice Muhammad further pledged the judiciary commitment to the fight against corruption through the deployment of all available legal means. reinvigorate the fight against corruption."

Governor Fayemi noted that an important aspect of law enforcement was crime prevention and called on the need for government at all levels to tap into the powerful tools of information and communication technology to

corruption fight is a product of togetherness and collaboration.

Also speaking at the Summit, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Dr. Edward Kallon, stated that the summit signified another step in demonstrating Nigeria's commitment to the global anticorruption fight.

Mr. Kallon said that the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) "provides tools for countries to prevent, control and combat corruption including the recovery of proceeds of crime. Diminishing corruption in the public sector is one of the main thrust of the convention."

According to him, "If countries take advantage of this global legal framework, they can contribute in building a robust structure for efficient and effective anti-corruption and enforcement."

Earlier in his welcome remark, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, highlighted the gains the Commission had recorded so far in its efforts to rid the nation of corruption.

The Chairman revealed that over 20,000 petitions had been received by the Commission with 5000 investigations

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In another goodwill message, the Chairman, Nigeria Governors forum (NGF) and Ekiti state Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, who spoke via Cisco WEBEX described the event as 'an eloquent testimony to the innovation which the current leadership of ICPC has brought into the anti-corruption war.'

The Summit according to him was a commendable one because it provided a platform for the "critical actors in policy, governance, enforcement and adjudication to take a hindsight, insight and foresight view of the war so as to continue to responsively

ensure that exposure to corrupt practices were very minimal.

According to NGF Chairman, "One of the ways to actualize this is to ensure that government businesses are fully digitalized and interaction between clients and government service providers are almost nil. This is because the root of all corrupt practices is the desire to take advantage of the people because of the physical interactions that often bring about compromises."

On his part, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, explained that no agency can fight corruption alone, stating that the success of any anti-



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concluded and 1000 cases filed in various courts across the Federation.

He also disclosed that the Commission had "conducted 47 full system study and reviews and 582 reviews comprising personnel and capital budget utilization, review of open treasury portal entries and implementation of the recommendations from the report of the Auditor-General of the Federation on MDAs."

"We have conducted Corruption Risk Assessments on key sectors of the economy notably transport, education, health and the egovernment system," the Chairman added.

As part of its strategy to police the public sector institutions, the ICPC boss said the Commission had established the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) in MDAs with 445 units inaugurated so far.

Professor Owasanoye also stated that the Commission established the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), a manpower development arm, which focuses on integrity and anti-corruption strategies.

The institution enjoys international commendation and is currently being processed as regional anti-corruption academy in West Africa. So far, no fewer than 14000

participants have undergone different trainings in the Academy.

On the Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Initiative, the anticorruption Czar revealed that in 2020, the scope of the initiative has been expanded to include "executive projects with special attention to Agriculture, Water Resources, Power, Education and Health."

According to him, "The second phase of tracking covered 722 (490 ZIP and 232 Executive) projects spread across 16 states. Due to Covid-19 and acute shortage of manpower, we used a threshold of N100m for project selection."

The Chairman disclosed that the effort had so far has compelled 59 contractors handling projects worth N2.25bn back to site, while assets worth about N700m and cash of almost N200m had been recovered and returned to beneficiaries.

Speaking on System Study and Review, Professor Owasanoye explained that the application of the Commission's preventive mandate was divided into four areas namely: "review of transactions on Open Treasury Portal; review of personnel and capital budget utilization of MDAs; collaboration with Auditor-General of the Federation to review the activities of revenue generating MDAs and administration of the Ethics and Integrity Scorecard on MDAs as indication of corruption risk."

On the Open Treasury Portal, he stated

that between January to August 15<sup>th</sup> 2020, a total of 268 MDAs were reviewed. A cumulative of 72 observed suspected infractions of N90m and above were selected as Phase 1. He added that the Commission focused on payments of N5m and above to individual accounts from the above date.

According to the ICPC boss "33 MDAs tendered explanations, out of which N4.1bn transferred to sub-TSA and N4.2bn paid to individuals was not satisfactorily explained. Investigations are still ongoing on these. We observed that transfers to sub-TSA was to prevent disbursement from being monitored. Nevertheless we discovered payments to some federal (Government) colleges for school feeding in the sum of N2.6bn during lockdown when the children are not in school, and some of the money ended up in personal accounts. We have commenced investigations into these findings."

Furthermore, the Chairman pointed out that progress in collaboration with Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation with respect to Revenue Generating Agencies had been slowed down due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.



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On Review of Personnel and Capital Budget Utilization of MDAs, the Commission's Chairman said that just like in 2019, the focus was still on health and education sectors.

On the health sector, he revealed that 52 institutions were reviewed and a surplus of N4.6bn on personnel cost was found and that recommendation had already been made to restrain the money from abuse, adding that personnel cost of the Usman Dan Fodio University Teaching Hospital, amounting to N227m was diverted by an individual.

On the education sector, the ICPC boss stated that 78 education sector MDAs were reviewed and common cases of misuse of fund found out included: payment of bulk sums to individuals/staff accounts, including project funds, nondeduction/remittance of taxes and IGR, payment of unapproved allowances and bulk payments to microfinance banks amongst others.

Speaking further on the Ethics and Integrity Compliance Scorecard of MDAs, Professor Owasanove explained that the integrity scorecard was a tool designed to discover institutional weaknesses that promote corruption in public institutions.

"In summary, none of the MDAs attained full compliance while 27 MDAs attained substantial compliance. 126 MDAs are classified as non-responsive and high

corruption risks for not hedisclosed. responding to the Ethics and Integrity Compliance Scorecard or submitting outside deadline. It is also instructive to note that 88 MDAs have in the past three years violated the PPA and 53 featured in FIRS tax defaulters list in the same period" he summed up.

The Chairman who also harped on Asset Recovery, and how the Commission has in the process of its various enforcement and investigative measures recovered various forms of assets. According to him, "earlier this year the Commission based on intelligence seized over N16bn from the federal Ministry of Agriculture because the money was moved under suspicious circumstances."

"Other assets recovered include 18 buildings, 12 business premises and 25 plots of land. We have restrained or recovered by administrative or court interim and final orders assets above N3bn, facilitated recovery of \$173,000 by the Whistleblower unit of FMFB&P from an erring oil company, restrained £160,000 in a UK bank in an on-going interim forfeiture. These figures exclude quantum of recoveries on return of contractors to site as a result of project tracking initiatives,"

With the government's migration from manual to e-payment system, ICPC has made input to the introduction and design of BVN, GIFMIS and IPPIS.

The ICPC Chairman also highlighted some of the public education platforms and advocacy initiatives that the Commission had deployed to enlist and foster support for the fight against corruption.

One of such initiatives according to the Chairman is the "My Constituency, My Project," campaign to sensitize and enlist community ownership of constituency and executive projects located in their communities.

He also added that the launch of "N20m from ICPC at 20" project which included music and essay competitions was to boost youth involvement and provoke their creativity and support for the fight against corruption.

The Summit thereafter dovetailed into a panel discussion using online platform, Cisco WEBEX focusing on the role of the private sector; citizens and non-state actors; and the media in the fight against corruption.





## **SCAM ALERT!!!**

ICPC DOES NOT REQUEST PAYMENT FOR ANY OFFICIAL MATERIAL OR SERVICE RENDERED.

AFTER INVESTIGATING CASE(S), ONLY PERSON(S) / ORGANISATION(S) ALLEGEDLY FOUND CULPABLE ARE PROSECUTED AND IT DOES NOT ISSUE "CERTIFICATE OF CLEARANCE" OR ANY FORM OF CLEARANCE FOR PERSON(S) / ORGANISATION(S) NOT CHARGED TO COURT.

Report any suspicious demand(S) to the nearest ICPC offices or through any of ICPC toll free lines: 080022554272; email info@icpc.gov.ng; or visit.

## DO YOU WISH TO REPORT ANY ACT OF CORRUPTION?

ou must consider the fight against corruption a personal cause. It is a struggle for the betterment of our lives as individuals, as a nation and for generations yet unborn. The battle must be approached collectively, tenaciously and holistically with all the seriousness and doggedness it deserves. Report any act of corruption to ICPC headquarters, Plot 802, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, P.M.B 535 Garki, Abuja or the nearest ICPC state office.

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### **ASSETS RECOVERY**

Assets worth billions of naira forfeited, recovered and restrained











#### Strategic Partnerships

- **⊘** FIRS
- **⊘** FRSC

✓ OAuGF✓ NTA

2000-2020

- NOA

- ✓ PEBEC✓ CSOs

**⊘** MEDIA

Ø DSSØ NSA

2000-2020



20,808
Petitions received

5.000

Concluded Investigations



1,000 Cases filed in court 2000-2020



47 Comprehensive Systems Study & Review of MDAs

7 Corruption Risk Assessments



**445** 2

2003-202

630 2016-202



MDAs assessed on Ethics and Compliance Scorecard

2019-2020











1,146
Constituency and Executive Projects tracked in 28 states





20/20 A New Vision



2,650

Student Anti-Corruption Vanguard/Club Inaugurations

436

CSOs in National Anti-Corruption Coalition

2019-2020



582

MDAs reviewed on:

- Personnel & Capital Fund Expenditure
- Open Treasury Portal
- Investigations from Auditor-General's Report

2015-2020



Anti-CorruptionAcademy of Nigeria

Staff Capacity Building Trainings

125 Training

Training Programmes

13,904 1,586
Participants in attendance

- O CRA Training for AU ACAs
- NACIWA Training on CRA for ECOWAS ACAs
- **⊘** ECOWAS Centre of Excellence

2000-2020



#### Landmark Initiatives

- **⊘** University System Study & Reveiw
- **⊘** Tax Fraud & Illicit Financial Flows Group
- Ocitizens Engagement Forum



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70,443



10,154

