



ICPC NEWS

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N86.1m Fraud: Civil Servant charged by ICPC bags 28 Years Imprisonment

By Inalegwu Shaibu

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A Borno State High Court, sitting in Maiduguri, has sentenced a Civil Servant, Ma'aji Shettima Arfo, to 28 years imprisonment for involving in an N86.1 million contract fraud. Arfo, who was sentenced to jail by

Justice Haruna Mshellia, of Borno State High Court, 3, was the General Manager of the State-owned Maiduguri Flour Mills Limited, where he committed the fraud. He was arraigned on a six-count charge by the Independent Corrupt Practices

and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for offences bordering on abuse of office and conferring undue advantage on himself. The charge sheet showed that Arfo, while acting as the General

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ICPC, DSS arrest 48 Lecturers, Security Personnel, ICT Specialists over leakage of JUPEB Examinations

By Inalegwu Shaibu

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Department of State Services (DSS) have arrested 48 individuals for their alleged illegalities in the conducts of the Joint Universities Preliminary Examination Board (JUPEB).



Photo: James Hananiah

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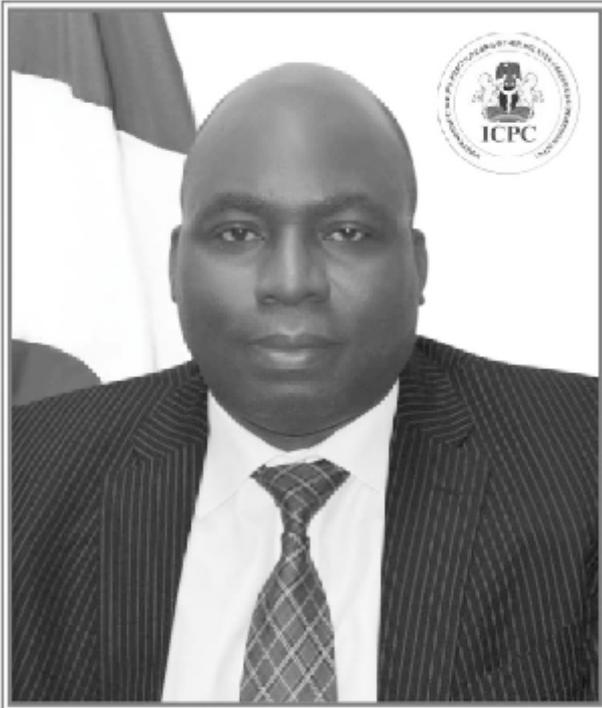
Solomon Kogi

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



**PROF. BOLAJI OWASANOYE, SAN
CHAIRMAN, ICPC**

“It is common knowledge that corruption is a source and contributor to IFFs from Nigeria... estimates of the quantum of IFFs lost globally vary, but it is generally agreed that a significant proportion of the loss is suffered by developing countries.

African countries are particularly affected by the loss through IFFs thus depriving the continent of much needed resources for development.

The destination of most IFFs from developing countries are rich industrialized countries in the West, but in recent times, this destination now extends to Asia and the Middle-East”.

**Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN
Chairman, ICPC
17th February, 2021**

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Photographers

James Hananiah

Solomon Kogi

Production Assistants

Daniel Stephen

Iiyasu Garba

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For further information, please contact: Mohammed Ashiru Baba, fsi
Director, Public Enlightenment & Education, ICPC Headquarter or any of the following staff of the department:

AZUKA C. OGUGUA 08058271830, HASSAN SALIHU 08036826129, FEMI GOLD 0802 300 8463

Plot 802, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, P.M.B 535
Garki, Abuja FCT.

Website: www.icpc.gov.ng, email: info@icpc.gov.ng

Toll Free Line: 080022554272

Read from cover page

Manager of the Flour Mill, between 2014 and 2020, engaged in multiple frauds in violation of Sections 12 and 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000 and punishable under relevant Sections of the same Act.

One of the counts on which he was convicted revealed that he awarded multiple contracts to Falkwat Multilinks Limited, a private company where he was a director, to supply diesel (Automotive Gas Oil) and maize to Maiduguri Flour Mills. Counsel to ICPC, Anas Mohammed Kolo, while arguing the case, told the

court that the convict in October 2015, awarded an N4.9 million contract to Falkwat Multilinks Limited to supply 40,000 litres of diesel to the flour mills. The court further heard how Arfo, while being a public servant, awarded several contracts between 2016 and 2017 to his private company, Falkwat Multilinks Limited, to supply maize to Maiduguri Flour Mills Limited.

For instance, he authorized the payments of N42.1 million to his company in July 2016 for the supply of 386.45 metric tonnes of maize and another N23 million to the same company in March, 2016 to supply

306.94 metric tonnes of maize to the state-owned flour mills.

He was convicted for yet another offence when he approved the payment of N16 million to Falkwat Multilinks to supply 217.45 metric tonnes of maize.

Justice Mshellia, at the end of the trial, found the general manager guilty of four counts out of six preferred against him and sentenced him to seven years imprisonment on each count. The judge ruled that prison terms will run concurrently.

Read from cover page

ICPC, DSS arrest 48 Lecturers, Security Personnel, ICT Specialists over leakage of JUPEB Examinations

By Inalegwn Shaibu

The joint operation tagged 'Operation Combo' conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, led to the arrests of lecturers, security officers, workers, and students from some of the participating universities in the examination.

Operation Combo was simultaneously carried out by the operatives of ICPC and DSS in seven states after extensive monitoring of tutorial schools allegedly known for notoriously compromising JUPEB examinations. This has led to the arrest of the President of Association of Tutorial School Owners (ATSO).

The operation, a consequence of a sustained period of surveillance and undercover investigations spanning several weeks, led to multiple arrests of suspects including parents of candidates of the exam. Also arrested were lecturers and others involved in examination malpractices and other illegalities in the participating institutions.

The suspects were arrested from Wellspring University, Benin, Edo State; Christopher University, Mowe, Ogun State and Crown-Hill University, Ilorin, Kwara State. Again, the raid of tutorial centres in McPherson and Precious Cornerstone Universities in Ibadan and Ilara-Epe in Oyo State respectively, led to more arrests of suspects.

Credible intelligence gathered during the operations showed active connivance of the parents of the students with the management of the universities. Three current Vice-Chancellors have been invited by ICPC for their roles in the unchecked and massive malpractices reported during the examination.

It was revealed that syndicated social media platforms were created by the facilitators for leaking questions and circulating answers to students for a fee during examinations.

The investigation also revealed that candidates, who were mostly minors, allegedly paid between N350,000 to N500,000 each to the suspects in the

various tutorial schools to engage in the illegalities.

The cartel, in collusion with the coordinators of the examination centres and other management staff of the institutions, deliberately allowed security lapses to enable the candidates go into examination halls with smartphones and other electronic devices to send question papers to waiting groups online and subsequently, receive answers to questions, thereby engaging in massive malpractices.

Some of the suspects arrested have been granted administrative bail while the investigation is ongoing.

JUPEB is an advanced-level educational examination that qualifies its candidate for admission into 200 levels in any Nigerian and some foreign universities through direct entry. It is coordinated by the University of Lagos and has up to 10 accredited universities.

ICPC recovers N53bn from Real Estate Developer for Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria

By Inalegwu Shaibu

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has recovered N53 billion from a real estate developer for the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria.

Chairman of ICPC, Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN who disclosed this during a meeting with the House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee Investigating the Operations of Real Estate Developers in FCT, said that the developer collected payments without providing houses for its subscribers. He stressed that the Commission would always deploy its mandates against developers who took public funds with the promise to provide houses for the public or civil servants without doing so.

Prof. Owasanoye also lamented the rising housing deficit in the country

noting that unscrupulous real estate developers in the Federal Capital Territory took advantage of desperate civil servants to scam them of their hard-earned money in the name of housing projects.

He said that the Commission was desirous of partnering with the ad-hoc committee to bring sanity to the housing sector because of its critical nature to the government. He told the committee that one of the ways to tackle the housing deficit and fraudulent real estate developers in the country was for the government to completely deploy technology as well as grant easy access to information.

"The lack of openness is also creating problems. Government should at least put information in the public domain where people can easily verify details of the land. A lot of people are scammed from fake layout, double allocations,

and others." He stressed.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee, Hon. Blessing Onoh observed that cases of developers defrauding would-be house owners were becoming rampant. Onoh maintained that it was common for real estate developers to start projects, later abandon them and move on to other cities after collecting monies from subscribers.

Hon. Onuh said that the committee was set up to proffer solutions to the anomalies and ensure that Nigerians who subscribed to housing projects end up owning them following the terms of the agreement they entered into.

Certificate Forgery: ICPC secures Conviction of NSCDC Officer

By Kunle Balogun

The Ogun State High Court has convicted and fined an official of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Mr. Idowu Olumuyiwa Olamide over certificate forgery.

The convict was charged before Justice A. A. Akinyemi by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for using a forged National Diploma Certificate to secure an upgrade in his office.

ICPC, in the charge on which he was convicted, accused him of "knowingly making false statement contrary to Section 25(1) of Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000 and punishable under Section 25(1) (b) of the Act".

The Court was told how the convict

presented a forged National Diploma Certificate in Automobile Engineering from Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State, to NSCDC to be upgraded to senior cadre.

Olamide who had earlier entered a "Not Guilty plea" when the charge was read to him in June 2021 when he was first arraigned, however, changed his plea during the trial by approaching the Court with a prayer for plea-bargain, which was granted by the trial judge. The charge was then amended from two-count to one, which centered on making false statements with the intent to deceive a government agency.

Delivering judgment, Justice Akinyemi found the NSCDC

official guilty, and following a passionate plea by his Counsel, the Court convicted him on a non-prison committal sentence of a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) in line with the provisions of Section 25 of the ICPC, Act 2000.

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Real Estate used for Money Laundering, IFFs – ICPC Chairman

• Says ICPC recovered 301 houses from two civil servants in Abuja

By Inalegwu Shaibu

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN has exposed how real estate is often used as cover for money laundering and illicit financial flows.

Owasanoye, who spoke at a public hearing on real estate organized by the House of Representatives Ad-Hoc Committee on Investigation of Operations of Real Estate Developers in FCT, Abuja, said that public officers used real estate developers as conduits for Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs).

"Corruption in real estate aids illicit financial flows. The real estate sector is globally recognised as attractive to IFFs, largely because it is informal, unregulated, and thus open to abuse. Shell companies use intermediaries and third parties to acquire high-value real estate with proceeds of crime, and/or illicit funds.

The ICPC Chairman further said, "Corrupt public officers use real estate investment as a vehicle for hiding ill-gotten wealth and money laundering. Public officers acquire estates using pseudonyms to conceal the illegal origin of funds.

"This is made possible by the absence of proper documentation and registration of titles to lands and estates in the country, and non-enforcement of beneficial ownership standards.

"The Commission has a case in which we recovered 241 houses from a public officer and another one with 60 buildings on a large expanse of land."

He told the Committee of efforts to sanitize the real estate sector which has resulted in the recoveries of monies and properties for the government.

His words: "ICPC continued with an exercise started by the defunct SPIP and concluded it from which recovery of a total sum of **N53,968,158,974.64** was made.

'The figure comprises **N858,938,681,681.06** fully recovered

and paid into FMBN account; **N1,357,490,846.28** post-dated cheque for October 2021 and a notarized agreement to pay the sum of **N51,751,729,447.30** to the FMBN".

Speaking further on the need for strict government regulation of the sector, Owasanoye noted that irregularities bordering on forgery and cloning of land documents, double/multiple land allocations, allocations of lands without the Minister's approval, and revocation of land titles without due process have become rampant.

He observed that even the real estate developers were not spared of problems in the sector arising from the high cost of home acquisition, unstable capital market, currency volatility, increased rural-to-urban migration, ineffective property protection laws, perceived multiple taxations, and poor building quality.

He further stressed that while some of these challenges of real estate may be tackled by legislative and executive laws and policies, others were strictly based on the interplay of economic forces.

Owasanoye informed the Committee that an investigation by ICPC had shown how the Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria (REDAN) fraudulently short-changed prospective house owners.

"The Commission conducted a System Study and Review of Mass Housing delivery in the FCT in 2010/2011, wherein it was discovered that members of the Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria (REDAN), who had been allocated huge plots of land for mass housing development in the FCT failed in the delivery of infrastructure to the project sites and rather resorted to offering and selling the estate plots to the highest bidder contrary to the Policy. These abuses were hardly sanctioned by FCDA.

"The estates end up being the exclusive preserve of the rich in society. The consequent pressure on low and middle-income earners is a push factor for public

sector corruption as public servants subvert processes, policies, and abuse of office for private gain to meet the desire for decent housing."

He called for strict government regulation and an inclusive mass housing policy saying, "We cannot continue to pretend that all is well with the sector while the economy groans and our teeming populace suffers lack of affordable housing, or while shylocks and criminals perpetrate their evil intents unchecked."

The Speaker of the House of Representative, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, who declared the public hearing open, called on the government to protect prospective homeowners from fraudulent real estate developers.

The Speaker who was represented by the Majority Leader, Hon. Alhassan Ado Dogowa added that it was the responsibility of lawmakers to make good legislation to ensure that hardworking Nigerians do not lose their monies to fraudulent developers."

Earlier, the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Blessing Onyeche Onuh, said that providing affordable housing was critical to the government and the people, which cannot be left unregulated.

She stated that the Committee was set up to correct the growing anomalies in the sector and stop real estate developers from taking advantage of prospective homeowners through fraudulent housing schemes.

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) Muhammed Bello, in his remark, noted that the government was working towards reducing the housing deficit.

Bello added that FCTA was collaborating with other agencies including ICPC to reposition the housing sector, which has started yielding tangible results.

ICPC, DSS, FRSC arrest 15 Road Safety Officials over Extortion of Motorists

By Inalegwu Shaibu



Fifteen officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) have been arrested through a joint security operation led by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for allegedly extorting monies from motorists on highways across the country.

The officials were arrested on the 12th of August 2021, simultaneously in Adamawa, Gombe, Ondo, and Osun States, respectively, with the extorted money on them, during the enforcement of the sixth phase of 'Operation Tranquility' by officers

of ICPC, FRSC, and the Department of State Services (DSS).

The operation, whose aim is to bring an end to extortion of motorists and other unwholesome practices by some FRSC officials, resulted in the arrest of seven officials along the Jimeta Township Routes and Yola Expressway in Adamawa State. Some money was recovered from them as they were raided while extorting motorists.

Also, the members of Operation

Tranquility arrested four FRSC officials in Gombe State, along Gombe Township routes. While four others were arrested within Ikare Township routes in Ondo State.

The team noted that the officials would sometimes enter vehicles belonging to motorists to negotiate and collect the bribes to avoid being seen by passers-by as well as employed the services of local government revenue collectors as agents to cover their illicit acts.

It was also found in the course of the operation that two patrol teams in Adamawa and Gombe States respectively, were not involved in any corrupt act, as they were caught under surveillance checking documentation and ensuring road worthiness of vehicles.

All those arrested have been granted administrative bail by the Commission, however, further investigation activities are still ongoing to ensure that those culpable are appropriately punished

ICPC arraigns PRODA DG for alleged N23.5 million fraud

By Suleiman Achile

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned the Director-General of Project Development Institute (PRODA) Enugu, Engr. Dr. Charles Agulanna before Hon. Justice Buba Ibrahim of the Federal High Court sitting in Enugu, for allegedly committing procurement fraud.

Engr. Agulanna, who is facing a one-count charge, was alleged by ICPC to have sometime in August, 2017 or thereabout, while being the Director-General of Projects Development Institute, committed procurement

fraud by awarding a contract for the revaluation of land belonging to PRODA in the sum of N23,500,037.50 to T.O. Thomas & Co., even when the company was not a registered surveyor/valuer and did not submit any Memorandum of Understanding with any registered surveyor/valuer in its tender bid, an offence contrary to section 58(4)(b) and punishable under section 58(5) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.

When the charge was read to the accused, Engr. Dr. Agulanna pleaded not guilty. The defense counsel, G.D. Joshua Esq, who had earlier submitted a written bail application, prayed the court to grant his client bail, stating that his client was a man of credible personality that would not jump

bail.

The ICPC counsel, O.J. Ochigbo did not oppose the bail but requested that the court grant him bail with stringent conditions.

The Presiding Judge, Justice Ibrahim therefore, granted bail to the defendant in the sum of N5m and two reliable sureties in the like sum.

The judge also asked the defendant and his sureties to submit 2 passport photographs each to the court and thereafter adjourned the matter to a future date for hearing.

Certificate Forgery: ICPC docks Ex-Presidential Aide, Obono-Obla

By Edet Ufot & Roseline Maduako

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned the former Chairman of the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for Recovery of Public Property (SPIP), Mr. Okoi Ofem Obono-Obla, over allegations of certificate forgery.

The Commission, in a two-count charge filed at the Jos Judicial Division of the High Court of Plateau State, maintained its allegations that the former SPIP head presented a fake result with a credit pass in English Literature to the University of Jos, with which he secured admission to read law.

The charge filed before Justice C. L. Dabup, revealed that while Obono-Obla did not sit for the Ordinary

Level, General Certificate Examination (GCE) in English Literature in 1982, he presented a result of the same GCE to the University of Jos, in 1985, containing Credit 6 from Mary Knoll College, O g o j a . He was alleged to have committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 366 of the Penal Code Law of Plateau State.

Obono-Obla entered a not guilty plea on each of the two-count when they were read to him, following which his counsel, M.A. Agara, filed an application praying the court to grant him bail on self-recognizance.

Agara had earlier filed a motion contesting the jurisdiction of the court on the matter as well as accused the prosecution of bringing a defective charge before the court and prayed the court not to allow the

charge to be read to the defendant.

ICPC's lead Counsel, Henry Emore, who opposed the motion challenging the jurisdiction of the court, submitted that the defendant was brought before the court because the offense of certificate forgery was allegedly committed in Jos where the court sits.

He however did not oppose the bail application but urged the court to admit him to bail on stringent terms.

Justice Dabup, in her ruling on the bail application, admitted Obono-Obla to bail in the sum of N1 million with one surety in like sum. She further ruled that the surety must be resident within the jurisdiction of the court and must submit an affidavit of means including a tax clearance certificate showing evidence of payment for three years. The case has been adjourned to 25th November 2021 for trial.

ICPC arraigns Ex-NIS Officer over Certificate Fraud

By Advent Boniface

A retired Chief Superintendent of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Imam Aminu, has been arraigned by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), over alleged forgery of academic certificates.

The Commission, in a 4-count charge brought before Honourable Justice A.O. Abong of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court 18, sitting in Gwagwalada, Abuja averred that the accused person had forged a National Diploma Certificate in Public Administration from the Kaduna State Polytechnic and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from the University of Calabar.

ICPC counsel, Mashkur Salisu Esq, informed the court of how the defendant had used the aforementioned forged certificates to enlist into NIS as well as advanced his career to the rank of a Chief

Superintendent. ICPC in Charge No: CR/821/2021 told the court that the former Immigration Officer's action was contrary to Section 364 of the Penal Code, and if he is found guilty, he shall be liable to a prison term of not less than 14 years.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty to the four counts. The Prosecution Counsel thereafter asked for a date for hearing and for the accused to be remanded in Kuje prison pending the hearing. Counsel to the defendant however moved the bail application in favour of the accused.

The trial court thereafter granted Mr. Aminu bail in the sum of N500,000.00 and a surety in like sum who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court. He was also ordered to deposit his travel documents at the court's registry.



Rtd. Chief Superintendent of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Imam Aminu

Private Sector aids 60% percent Illicit Financial Flows out of Africa – ICPC Chairman

By Inalegwu Shaibu & Joy Ajah

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, has said that the private sector was responsible for over 60 percent illegal movement of funds from Africa to foreign countries.

Prof. Owasanoye made this known during the visit of council members of the African Bar Association (AFBA) led by its President, Mr. Hanniba Uwaifo to the corporate headquarters of ICPC recently.

The ICPC boss stated that the perpetrators of illicit financial flows channeled the funds through commercial activities enabled by the private sector.

He said, "A bulk of corruption going on in the country is caused or perpetrated by the private sector. About 60 percent of funds taken or stolen away from Africa through illicit financial flows are being done by the private sector, basically, through commercial transactions, seemingly harmless transactions that are put together by accountants, auditors, and bankers."

The ICPC Chairman, who also commented on attacks on staff of the Commission and other anti-corruption agencies by suspects under investigations, said that it was fuelled by impunity and weak laws.

Noting that corruption was debilitating in Nigeria, Prof. Owasanoye explained that the ICPC was focusing on public sector corruption because of its impact on the country and the private sector.

He listed some of the progress made by the Commission to include: de-emphasizing confession-based investigation, a world-class forensic lab, staff auditing, and capacity building.

He charged the African Bar Association (AFBA) to play a positive role in regulating lawyers' effectiveness in the fight against corruption and pledged the Commission's commitment to supporting the upcoming Anti-Corruption Conference of the AFBA scheduled to hold in Niamey, Republic of Niger.

Earlier in his remarks, the AFBA President, Mr. Hanniba Uwaifo traced the problem in Africa to corruption which, according to him, has led to the

underdevelopment of the continent.

He stressed that the continent cannot grow unless corruption was uprooted, adding that the world is worried about the level of corruption in Africa.

Uwaifo lamented that public sector corruption by government officials has held the country back from achieving its great potentials.

The AFBA President highlighted some of the corrupt practices perpetrated by government officials to include: election malpractices, banditry, and influencing the employment of lackeys into anti-corruption agencies to aid their corrupt practices.

Speaking on improvement, Mr. Uwaifo noted that issues of preventing corruption from taking place in the anti-graft agencies can be enhanced through constant audit of staff and materials. He commended the ICPC for its due diligence and rule of law in the prosecution of accused persons.

"I want to commend the ICPC for performing creditably and not engaging in media trial and abuse of the rights of accused persons. I hope the Commission will continue to perform its duties as constitutionally required," the AFBA president said.

Assistant Registrar, One Other arraigned for demanding bribe from a student

By Inalegwu Shaibu

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has docked an Assistant Registrar of the University of Calabar Post-Graduate School, Mrs. Emem Akpan, for allegedly demanding a bribe from a former student of the school.

ICPC, in a two count-charge filed at the High Court of Cross River State, Calabar, also arraigned one Mr. Promise Osundu over his alleged complicity in the demand for bribe from the ex-post graduate student, Mrs. Susan Eno-Abasi Genschow.

The charge sheet filed before Justice I. B. Itade of High Court 9, revealed that Mr. Osundu, who was a Project Manager in Seamfix Nigeria Limited for the University of Calabar Transcript Projects, conspired with the Assistant Registrar, Mrs. Emem Akpan, to defraud Mrs. Genschow of the sum of N110,500 in the course of processing her transcript and certificate.

They were alleged to have committed the crime sometime between 2019 and 2020, contrary to Section 26 (1) (c) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, and punishable under Section 8 (1)

(b) (ii) of the same Act.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them.

Counsel to Mrs. Akpan, O. G. Onah, filed a bail application, which was not opposed by ICPC Counsel, Kioba Anabrabra.

Thus, Justice Itade, ruling on the bail application, granted them bail in the sum of N3 million each with one surety in like sum. The trial judge also ruled that the sureties must be public or civil servants working in Cross River State. The case was then adjourned to 21st October, 2021 for trial.

ICPC charges Professional Bodies

to imbibe the values of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy

By Ruth Awodi

of collapsed values not only affected national development objectives but also affected every aspect of our lives.

He recommended that BMOs and PAs look hard at their codes of conduct with a special focus on the ethics of their professions and ensuring that it was effective and, where need be, refer to the NEIP for guidance.

Abari encouraged participants to apply what they would learn from the event such that every aspect of their work and life would feel a positive impact.

The NOA DG called on civil society groups, religious groups, the family, and school systems to rise to expectations to bring the nation back on course ethical standards and integrity in all spheres.

The President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Olumide Akpata, in a goodwill message said the NEIP was a welcome development, adding that ethics was a core strength in the NBA as the association ensures that lawyers abide by the code of the profession.

The NBA president, who was represented by Okechukwu Uzoechi, urged participants to make concerted efforts to ensure that the erosion of ethics, which has risen to a worrisome level, is fixed.

Also in her goodwill message, the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) Mrs. Comfort Olu Eyitayo, represented by Ifeoma Okwuosa, stated that without probity and integrity, Nigeria would be in trouble.

Mrs. Eyitayo also revealed that ICAN was happy to be part of the event as "Accuracy and Integrity" was its motto. She, therefore, pledged that the association would continue to maintain integrity in the discharge of its duties.

The opening ceremony was followed by a technical session chaired by a Hon. Board Member, ICPC, Mrs. Hannatu Mohammed as she set the tone for discussions, explaining that the session aimed to educate the

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN has charged Professional Associations (PAs) and Business Membership Organisations (BMOs) to imbibe the seven core values of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy (NEIP) in the discharge of their duties, as they play a pivotal role in the implementation.

Professor Owasanoye gave this charge in his welcome address at a one-day webinar organized by the Commission titled: *Creating Partnership with BMOs and PAs on the Implementation of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy*.

Owasanoye who was represented by Hon. Board Member Mrs. Olubukola Balogun, said that the event was aimed at resuscitating

the core values contained in the policy adding that so much was expected from them, as drivers of the economy, for the successful implementation and sustainability of the policy.

The ICPC boss encouraged PAs to make moves to enforce the ethics of their profession by punishing erring members and rewarding those found to be honest and impeccable. He further advised participants to actively contribute to discussions so that they can play the role expected of them in the implementation of the policy.

In his opening remarks, the Director-General, National Orientation Agency (NOA) Dr. Garba Abari said the event was important as issues surrounding ethics and integrity in the country needed to be addressed. Dr. Abari stated that the impact

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ICPC charges Professional Bodies

participants on the policy as well as highlighted the important roles they played in building society.

In his paper presentation titled: *Overview of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy*, lead presenter, Director Public Enlightenment and Education Department of ICPC, Mr. Ashiru Baba, fsi said the policy was aimed at promoting the seven core values and hoped that participants would imbibe them as a way of life to minimize corruption drastically.

Mr. Baba added that the policy was targeted at all Nigerians across the country and advised the participants to enforce the ethics of their profession while working closely with Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) to report erring officers.

The spokesperson for the Commission, Mrs. Azuka Ogugua, was the first discussant and in her presentation titled: *Workplan and Consequence Management Template of the NEIP*, informed participants that the template was designed to set benchmarks for the implementation of the policy.

Discussing the *Role of Professional Associations in the Implementation of NEIP*, CEO Convention on Business Integrity, Mr. Soji Apampa, said that the implementation of the policy could not be done by ICPC alone.

Also, the President National Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS), QS Mohammed Abba Tor, in his paper titled: *Embracing NEIP: the Role of Professional Associations; Challenges and*

Prospects said the key challenge when it comes to policies in the code of conduct of PAs is enforcement.

The NIQS president who was represented by the Deputy President, Mr. Olayemi Shonubi, advised PAs to begin to name and shame erring officers as a deterrent for corrupt persons as well as hold their members accountable.

The plenary session was interactive as participants sent in their questions and suggestions, and these were responded to. Some of the participants who spoke during the session include Mr. Denja Abdullahi, Engr. Olumoh Sharafadeen, Paul Anavhe, Jr. Friday Udo, etc.

NSCDC to handover Corruption Cases to ICPC – CG Audi

By Bello Ibrahim



Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi & Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN

Photo: Solomon Kogi

The Commandant-General of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi, has said that all corruption cases involving officers of the Corps would be transferred to the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for further action.

Dr. Audi who spoke at a courtesy visit to the Commission in Abuja recently, disclosed that NSCDC would discontinue the high-profile corruption cases before it to allow ICPC that has the mandate and technical know-how to handle.

He also asked for the support of the Commission on staff training, adding that ICPC was better placed to train NSCDC officers on investigation techniques and intelligence gathering. The Commandant-General lauded the robust working relationship between the two agencies, revealing that officers of NSCDC were more aware of corruption and its associated risk due to the introduction of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) in the Corps by ICPC. He further said that "NSCDC officers have

benefited through the ACTU as they have been trained on Corruption Risk Assessment and System Study". In his response, the Chairman of ICPC, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, noted that the problem of insecurity facing Nigeria was triggered by the high level of corruption and unstable economy, stressing that ICPC desired to work with NSCDC in tackling the problems bedeviling the nation, because of the critical link between corruption and insecurity, with grave consequences if not handled properly.

Owasanoye said that the synergy between the two agencies was paramount to the national interest as information and intelligence gathering would help in combating corruption and reduce the tendency to crime and criminality in the country.

ICPC boss said that the Commission was willing to help in capacity building for the officers and also to share knowledge on asset management and value with NSCDC.

ICPC Kicks Off Phase 3 of Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Exercise

...Tracks 1,251 Constituency and Executive Projects In 17 States, FCT

By Azuka Ogugua & Inalegwu Shaibu

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission has announced the commencement of Phase 3 of the Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Exercise. The tracking of the constituency and executive projects is an initiative of the Commission that began in 2019, focusing on how well money allocated to critical sectors of education, health, agriculture, water resources, and power amongst others, by the government were utilized.

The first phase of the exercise was held in 2019 in 12 states and the FCT and achieved the tracking of 524 projects. The second phase in 2020 had about 822 projects tracked in 16 states.

The first 2 phases led to the recovery of assets worth billions of Naira to the government and return of equipment to communities for whom they were meant. Also, about 300 contractors returned to sites and completed hitherto shoddily done or abandoned projects. The exercise led to a revelation that some projects were excellently and completely executed.

The Commission is following up the first 2 phases of the projects with the community sensitisation and enlightenment programmes, receipt, and handling of inquiries on the toll-free number (0800-CALL-ICPC/0800-2255-4272) and info@icpc.gov.ng.

Some cases of diversion of project funds from the first two phases are being investigated.

Phase 3 of the constituency and executive projects tracking exercise is slated to take place in 17 states – Katsina, Kano, Sokoto, Yobe, Adamawa, Plateau, and Kogi. Others are Benue, Ondo, Osun, Lagos, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Edo, Anambra, and Imo States, as well as the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The focus, as in the previous years, will be on priority sectors of agriculture, education, power, health, and water resources.

A total of 1,251 projects executed within the 2019 and 2020 appropriations have been listed for tracking in this third phase. These include 1,024 constituencies and 227 executive projects respectively.

The objective of the tracking exercise is to ensure that the Appropriation Act is fully implemented as contemplated by law, monitor the implementation of the projects from inception to completion, make recoveries on projects/contracts confirmed to have been inflated, and investigate fraudulent procurement practices in the award of contracts for the constituency and executive projects.

The reason is to improve service delivery to the people, ensure the full execution of all projects, guarantee value for money in the implementation of the projects, ensure compliance with regulatory requirements in the implementation of the projects, and increase recovery of public funds into government coffers, among others.

The Commission hopes to close the gap between expenditure and development and the swallowing of scarce government resources characterized by shoddy handling of constituency projects through its

enforcement and preventive mandate.

ICPC wishes to acknowledge its partners, which include the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, Bureau of Public Procurement, civil society organizations, the media, grassroots community development associations, and other critical stakeholders.

The legislature is also giving the Commission its support, as they have indicated that the execution of projects is equally of concern to them.

The exercise will be done with project geo-location and mapping to enhance tracking, meaning that remotely-sited projects will also be brought under the tracking space for evaluation.

Media and civil society organizations in the selected states are encouraged to monitor the exercise and give their feedback to the Commission to assist us to improve the process.

**“Integrity
pays
Avoid
Corruption
as much
as
you can**

NDIC Boss lauds ICPC for reducing Corruption in Public Sector

...New ACTU inaugurated in the Corporation

By Joy Ajab

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Mr. Bello Hassan, has commended the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) set up by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), in Ministries, Departments, and Agencies for reducing corruption in such public sector institutions. The MD who gave the commendation at the inauguration and induction of the reconstituted ACTU of the Corporation following the retirement and expiration of the

The NDIC boss also said that the NDIC ACTU had in times past engaged in preliminary investigation and through the system study ensured compliance to policies by all staff of the Corporation. According to him, "I do not doubt in my mind that this inauguration will not only go a long way in strengthening our system, processes, and procedures to continue to prevent corruption within the corporation. But it will also in no small measure support the Federal Government's National Anti-Corruption Strategy which was launched by the Federal Executive

accountability in their operations and systems.

Professor Owasanoye highlighted the duties of ACTUs to include examination of systems, processes, and procedures that are prone to corruption; developing and reviewing a code of ethics for staff and ensuring compliance with same; monitoring budget implementation of the Corporation; implementing the Ethics and Integrity Compliance Scorecard; and undertaking preliminary investigations into complaints and reports received, amongst others.

He, therefore, advised the newly appointed members of ACTU to "be responsible and responsive in the exercise of your functions and avoid questionable acts given the strategic role you are expected to play. Remember, he who comes to equity must come with clean hands."

In her acceptance speech, the newly sworn-in chairperson of Unit, Margaret Iveren Anyira, Assistant Director, Internal Audit Department of the Corporation expressed appreciation to the management of NDIC and ICPC for placing faith and honour in them.

She pledged, "We will carry out this assignment with dedication and great passion while standing on integrity, which is one of the core values of the corporation."



NDIC ACTU members taking oaths of office during the inauguration

Photo: Solomon Kogi

tenure of the old members said "Your agency has continued to give impetus to the current administration in the war against graft and other forms of corruption."

Mr. Hassan stated that ICPC should not rest on its oars as NDIC was ever ready to collaborate in this regard, adding that to tackle the menace of corruption, all hands needed to be on deck.

He further stressed that corruption had become a global concern, saying that it destroyed rule of law, caused political instability, retarded social development, and eroded public trust in governance.

Council on the 5th of July, 2017."

In his goodwill message, ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, described NDIC ACTU as a source of pride to the ICPC given its activities and achievement which included sensitization of staff and system study and review of the Corporation's processes.

The Chairman who was represented by the Director in charge of System Study and Review Department, Mr. Abba Udofia, fsi, urged the management of NDIC to sustain the legacy which according to him promotes transparency and

Say
No To
CORRUPTION
Your No
Counts

ICPC recovered N120 Million for Adamawa, says Governor Fintiri

By Benjamin Francis (Yola)



Adamawa Dep. Governor, Chief Crowther Seth (on the podium) & Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye SAN (sitting)

Adamawa State Governor, Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, has disclosed that the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) helped the State Government to recover the sum of N120 Million from the State's Commercial Farmers Loans Scheme.

Fintiri, while speaking at the commissioning of the new Adamawa State Office complex of the ICPC, through the Deputy Governor of the State, Chief Crowther Seth, commended ICPC's contributions to the promotion of integrity, transparency, and accountability in the State.

He further said that "the introduction of various governance reforms, especially the establishment of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units in MDAs, which have been playing pivotal roles in ensuring that public officials observe due process in the conduct of government affairs".

The Governor also underscored the partnership between the State and the Commission, which had contributed in no small measure to the realisation of the objectives of the State Government's programmes and projects.

He called on ICPC to consider

building the capacity of Adamawa State government officials, especially members of the Anti-corruption Units in MDAs to, not only resist the temptation of being corrupt but also have a full grasp of the anti-corruption laws and extant regulations to guide their daily official and private transactions.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Hon. Chairman of ICPC, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye (SAN), expressed his gratitude to the Governor and people of Adamawa State for their generous support towards the Commission.

He stated that ICPC was empowered by law to set up offices in the 36 states of the Federation, adding that the Adamawa State Office was the third prototype-built office structure to be commissioned after Oyo and Sokoto States offices.

The Hon. Chairman also revealed that the Adamawa State Office was among the second set of the State Offices that were established by ICPC in 2007 with a few members of Staff in a rented apartment.

According to him, the new office building "is in fulfillment of ICPC'S dream to own its offices in all the States of the Federation".

It also serves "to fulfill the promise made by the Commission at a National Anti-Corruption Summit held in February 2018 here in Yola to

complement the effort of the Adamawa State in establishing agencies like the Public Procurement Agency and for incorporating the provisions of the ICPC Act in the State's Penal Code".

Professor Owasanoye further thanked the former Governor of Adamawa State, Vice Admiral Murtala Nyako who had approved the allocation of the plot of land on which the office edifice was constructed to the Commission in 2012. Also speaking at the event, the Chairman Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, Senator Suleiman Abdu Kwari, who was represented by Senator Binos Dauda Yaro, thanked the Hon. Chairman and the Board for the bold steps of proper utilization of the Commission's finances and promised to support the Commission in its effort through appropriation and legislative interventions.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman House of Representative Committee on Anti-Corruption, Hon. Garba Shehu (Sarkin Noma) commended the Governor of the State, Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, the Chairman and Board of ICPC for this remarkable feat.

According to him, the fight against corruption in Adamawa State in particular, and the North-East in general will receive a fresh impetus by the commissioning of the new office as it will provide a conducive environment that will help in delivering the mandate of the Commission.

He further congratulated the Staff of ICPC who will make use of the facility and urged them to reciprocate by being more committed to and productive in their job.

Giving the vote of thanks, the Secretary to the Commission, Professor Musa Usman Abubakar thanked all the guests that found time to come to the commissioning of the State Office building and wished all guests a safe trip back to their respective destinations.

ICPC Arraigns Two Suspects for Alleged Fraud and Obtaining by False Pretence

By Raphael Mmadike

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mrs. Patricia Eni Hassan and Mr. Zachaeus B. Gana, before Justice Muawiyah Baba Idris of High Court 36 sitting in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja for alleged fraud and obtaining by false pretence.

The two accused were arraigned before the court on a six-count charge, which bordered on fraud, dishonesty, falsification of documents, and corruption.

Part of the charges as read in the court stated that sometime between 2014 – 2016 both accused conspired to obtain by false pretence the sum of ten million naira from the Redeemed

Christian Church of God, the Wealthy Place Parish, Gwarimpa, Abuja to secure land for the church which they failed to do, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 1 (a) and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Offences Act of 2006. They were also alleged to have forged an offer of "Statutory Right of Occupancy" purportedly issued by the Federal Capital Territory Administration, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 366 and punishable under Section 364 of the Penal Code Laws of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The defendants both pleaded not guilty to all the charges, and thereafter their Counsel, Nureni Sulyman who

represented the first defendant, Patricia Eni Hassan, and C.C Eze for the second defendant, Zachaeus Gana made an oral application for bail, which was not opposed by the Prosecution Counsel, Agbili E. Kingsley.

The defendants were granted bail in the sum of Five Million Naira. In addition, they must each produce a surety who shall enter a bail bond of Five Million Naira with evidence of their ownership of landed property within the jurisdiction of the court.

Justice Idris then set the 22nd, 23rd, and 29th of November 2021 for commencement of the hearing.

ICPC docks University of Calabar Don over N20.6m Fraud

By Inalegwu Shaibu

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has charged a top official of the University of Calabar, Prof. Francisca Ime Bassey, to court over her alleged involvement in N20.6 million contract fraud.

Prof. Bassey, who is the Dean and Director of the Pre-Degree Programme of the university, was arraigned at the Cross River State High Court Six, Calabar, by the Commission for allegedly holding private interests in multiple contracts awarded by the school to four companies directly owned by her.

The Commission, in a 10-count charge filed before Justice Elias. O. Abua noted that the alleged crime happened between 2013 and 2017, in violation of Section 12 of the Corrupt Practices and Other

Related Offences Act, 2000.

The charged sheet revealed that Prof. Bassey at different times benefited from a series of contracts totaling N20,679,324.63 awarded to Bakuf Ventures, Rivet Investment Nigeria Ltd, Joebas Enterprises, and Arumo Nigeria Ltd.

It was found that contracts amounting to N7,819,916.24 were allegedly awarded to Bakuf Ventures on four occasions between 2013 and 2017 and other contracts worth N4.7 million were awarded to Rivet Investment Nigeria Ltd between 2013 and 2015 by the institution.

The Dean further used two of her companies, Joebas Enterprises and Arumo Nigeria Ltd to commit multiple contract fraud. She allegedly benefitted from N5,736,797.84 contracts awarded

to Arumo Nigeria Ltd and N2,450,700 awarded to Joebas Enterprises within the same period.

The accused entered a not-guilty plea when the charge was read to her, as her counsel, Barrister Joseph Oloku, filed a bail application praying the court to admit her to bail on self-recognizance.

The bail was opposed by counsel to ICPC, Kioba Kio Anabraba, who prayed the court to grant her bail on terms that would make her attend her trials.

The Presiding judge granted her bail in the sum of N5 million with one surety in like sum, insisting that the surety must have landed property within the jurisdiction of the court. The matter was adjourned to future date.

Kano Anti-Corruption Agency Applauds ICPC's Projects' Tracking Initiative

By Sani Tukur



(M) Mahmud Balarabe and Ibrahim Garba Kagara

The Acting Chairman of the Kano State Anti-Corruption and Public Complaints Commission, Mr. Mahmud Balarabe has commended the effort of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), on the Constituency and Executive Projects

Tracking Initiative, which ensures proper and transparent execution of projects in the country.

Mr. Balarabe, who made this statement during an advocacy visit to the Kano State office of the Commission stated that Kano state Anti-Corruption Commission's success was dependent upon the

quality of support it receives from Nigeria's pioneer anti-corruption agency, ICPC saying, could not achieve its objectives without the support of ICPC, going by the overwhelming number of petitions it received daily.

Responding, the ICPC Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Ibrahim Garba Kagara expressed his appreciation to the Kano Anti-Graft Agency for identifying with ICPC, and gave his commitment to the collaboration as requested, to achieve a corruption-free Nigeria.

Mr. Kagara further stated that strengthening the existing relationship was necessary, especially in human resource development and corruption prevention techniques.

ICPC urged to investigate Examination Scandal in NECO

By Advent Boniface

A media organisation, Signature TV has called on the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to probe some staff of the National Examination Council (NECO) for engaging in examination scandals at a centre in Kaduna State.

The call was made by the Chief Executive Officer of Signature TV, Mr. Vinmartin Obiora Ilo, during the unveiling of Corruption Tori Season Two in Abuja, recently.

Mr. Ilo in his remark at the event explained that one of its investigative reportage uncovered how some NECO officials colluded with prospective candidates to undermine the integrity of their examination.

According to him, "The story, which was published by more than 25 media houses a day after it broke, led to the flagging off of the examination centre in Kaduna by NECO and an investigative inquiry was set up by the NECO Board."

The Signature TV CEO however, bemoaned that although NECO had

promised to send their findings to ICPC for further investigation, nothing has been heard of the case again so far. He, therefore, called on ICPC to wade into the case and bring anyone culpable to justice.

Speaking at the event "Corruption Fighting Back", ICPC Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, who

was represented by Assistant Director, Mallam Hassan Salihu, said that it was only natural for those who benefit from the status quo to fight back any reform aimed at fighting corruption, stating that whenever 'corruption is threatened, it fights back.'

The Chairman also noted that corruption was not only a threat to national security, but a threat to the political and socio-economic development of the Nigerian nation.

Professor Owasanoye pointed out how Corruption Tori's objective of causing attitudinal change among Nigerians aligned itself with the Commission's National Ethics and Integrity Policy (NEIP).

According to the ICPC boss, the NEIP, which was developed in collaboration

with the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) and the National Orientation Agency (NOA), was approved by the Federal Executive Council on 19th August, 2020 and launched by Mr. President on 28th September, 2020 and sought the return of Nigerians to values of old that made the country great.

The anti-corruption Czar further highlighted how the Commission was making significant inroads with its Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Initiative; System Study and Review, saying that the initiatives had forced contractors who abandoned projects back to the site and saved billions of naira for the government respectively.

Corruption Tori is an anti-corruption programme supported by MacArthur Foundation and aired on the Network Services of the African Independent Television (AIT) and the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). It is aimed at causing attitudinal change and making Nigerians demand accountability and transparency by holding leaders to account.

We Need Strong Institutions to Fight Corruption, IFFs – ICPC Boss ...called on African Countries to Prioritise Assets Recovery

By Inalegwu Shaibu & Joy Ajah

Nigeria requires strong institutions and systems to fight corruption and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs), the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, has recommended.

He made this recommendation while delivering a lecture to participants of Executive Intelligence Management Course 14 of the National Institute for Security Studies in Bwari, Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In his paper titled "Governance, Corruption, Rule of Law and Security in Africa", Prof. Owasanoye stated that the solution to corruption, economic, and security problems bedeviling Nigeria lies in building strong institutions and systems with active collaboration from state and non-state actors.

He said, "Corruption and weak governance are mutually reinforced... diversion of the public budget in the expenditure side of revenue, direct looting of the treasury, illicit financial

flows (IFFs), tax evasion, misapplication of funds, deliberate elephant projects, and contract and procurement abuse have huge implication for development.

"Without development, there can be no peace or security and without peace and security, development is a mirage. Massive investment in infrastructure is the route to development"

In a related development, the ICPC Chairman has called on Sub-Saharan African Countries to reverse illicit financial flows and prioritize asset recoveries towards minimising the menace of corruption in the region.

Prof. Owasanoye, who gave the charge at the Virtual Conference for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa, called for the utilisation of proceeds from recovered assets to tackle the problem of poverty in the sub-region.

Delivering a paper titled "Understanding the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR)", the ICPC boss said Africa could not eradicate poverty or meet Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG) without prioritising asset recovery and domestic resource mobilization.

"The sure way to diminish corruption is to improve domestic resource mobilisation in the region and also to reverse illicit financial flows. It would be a dream to assume that we would achieve it without meeting the basic results that have been set for basic mobilisation."

He further stated that the world had lost huge revenues to corruption and illicit financial flows, adding that the country had recovered up to \$700 million of assets in the last six years.

The ICPC chairmans highlighted the CAPAR framework to include Detection and Identification of Assets, Recovery, and Return of Assets, Management of Recovered Assets, Recommended Actions on Asset Management, and Cooperation and Partnerships.

Owasanoye called on heads of member states to adopt a policy on the use of asset recovery and management for development goals.

Digital Bridge Institute Trains Board Members & Directors of ICPC on e-Governance

Raphael Mmadike

The Board and Management of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) have been trained on e-governance by the Digital Bridge Institute.

Speaking at the event held at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja, the Chairman of ICPC, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, said that this year, the Board decided to devote a lot of time and resources to training, pointing out that the Commission would indeed benefit from the training. Prof. Owasanoye stated that the essence of the training was to ensure that management and staff were abreast with e-governance to help

improve the work of the Commission.

In his remark the President/CEO of Digital Bridge Institute, Professor Mohammed Ajiya thanked the Chairman for approving the training, saying that the interaction would greatly enhance the work of the Commission.

Digital Bridge Institute according to the CEO is a creation of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) with its emphasis on human capacity and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT).

While noting that the world had become ICT-driven with the Federal Government desirous of embracing technology in governance, Professor Ajiya, therefore, pointed out the need

to come together with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to acquire knowledge and capacity needed to achieve its potentials using technology.

Finally, Professor Ajiya stated that the Institute was happy to partner with ICPC and promised that the Institute would assist the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN), the training arm of the Commission to be fully ICT compliant.

Another highlight of the event was the presentation of training materials to the Chairman, board members, and directors followed by a group photograph with both officials of ICPC and DBI.

The Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, has stated that "Corruption impacts development, peace, and security" of a nation in multiple ways.

Professor Owasanoye remarked recently in Abuja while speaking as the Guest Lecturer to Course 30 Participants of National Defence College (NDC) Nigeria, on the topic: Whole of Society Approach in the Fight Against Corruption and Human Security in Nigeria.

The Chairman stated that corruption weakened the state and eroded its capacity to provide the requisite training and equipment for security and paramilitary agencies, such as the police, military, immigration, customs, civil defense, and neighborhood watches.

According to him, 'Bad governance, corruption and the collapse of the rule of law lead to insecurity.'

Speaking on how pervasive corruption in defense spending can impact a country's peace and security, the ICPC boss warned of how a single transaction of diversion of huge sums could have an immediate impact that might become irreversible or more difficult and costly to reverse, while petty diversion of budget or misallocation of resources might not immediately make an impact, but would inevitably in the long run.

Professor Owasanoye also explained that corruption and failure to uphold the rule of law also led to monumental economic losses and threatened development



Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN

Photo: Solomon Kogi

and human security.

"Direct looting of the treasury, Illicit Financial Flows, tax evasion, misapplication of funds, budget padding, ghost workers, deliberate elephant projects, project abandonment, contracts, and procurement abuse have huge implications on development and human security," he reiterated.

The Chairman added that just as corruption and weak governance structures were mutually reinforcing, development, peace, and security were also mutually reinforcing, saying "Without development, there can be no peace or security and without peace and security human development is a mirage."

He then advocated for strong systems and the deployment of technology as a recipe for fighting corruption effectively.

In his remarks after the lecture, NDC Commandant, Rear Admiral O.B. Daji, also lent his voice to the fact that corruption was an existential threat to

national security because of its ability to undermine the institutions of the state and erode public trust.

The Commandant, therefore, reminded the Course 30 Participants that as strategic leaders, corruption and insecurity should be of concern to them otherwise they would continue to live with the consequences.

**DO NOT GIVE
OR TAKE
BRIBE
REPORT ANY
CORRUPT
ACT TO ICPC**

By Ruth Awodi



Photo: Robert Ayakpat

The enduring efforts of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) in improving corporate governance through innovative, professional, and effective mechanisms in MDAs have been commended by the Honourable Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello.

Mallam Bello who made the commendation during a sensitisation workshop for top management staff of Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) recently in Abuja, commended the Commission's Ethics and Integrity Compliance Scorecard in which FCTA emerged as top scorer in the year 2020 rating, stating that the success was attributable to the active role played by the FCT Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU).

He noted that the establishment of ACTUs in MDAs by ICPC served as an effective tool to not only check corrupt practices in MDAs and block corrupt prone areas but to also enlist public servants in the fight against corruption.

The FCT Minister further warned civil servants against a conspiracy of silence in reporting corruption, adding that civil servants became victims of corruption when they

failed to report to relevant authorities.

He encouraged staff to continue to follow the laid down rules and regulations while commending them for coming tops in the 2020 ICPC Ethics and Integrity Compliance Scorecard which, he said, was a reflection of the collective effort of staff and management.

Earlier in his goodwill message the Chairman of ICPC Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, represented by the Director Systems Study and Review Department (SSRD) ICPC, Mr. Abbia Udofia had told participants that the ACTU was not aimed at witch-hunting staff, but to serve as a cleaning agent to assist the Ministry and spread the gospel of anti-corruption, as well as complement the efforts of management in ensuring that things were done the right way.

The ICPC Chairman added that the event was aimed at educating staff on the ills and scourge of corruption and hoped that lessons learned from the sensitisation would help in driving the activities and work of the Ministry and ICPC.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary FCTA, Mr. Olusola Adesola stressed that the unsavoury effects of corruption and other associated ills could not be overemphasized, as it had the propensity to largely undermine

the developmental strides and programmes of any administration or country.

He added that the challenge associated with the menace was not only that funds and government resources were being systematically siphoned by dishonest persons and groups inside and outside of government, but consequentially, it deprived vulnerable masses of basic social amenities meant to serve them.

Adesola went on to say that FCTA was poised to enlighten and sensitize all its officials on ways to eliminate corrupt practices in the system and stressed that the sensitization lectures would be one in the many series of engagements with various levels of staff to foster a better understanding of the required standards of public service rules and regulations.

Thereafter, three insightful papers were delivered by ICPC officers on the topics "Combatting Corruption in the Public Service and Entrenching Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in the Workplace", "Whistle Blowing Protection and Reward System", and "An Overview of the ICPC Ethics and Integrity Compliance Score Card".

In her vote of thanks, the ACTU Chairperson FCTA, Ms. Bunmi Olowookere said the active participation of staff during the lecture showed their commitment to the fight against corruption. She pledged that FCTA would always be a reference point in the fight against corruption amongst MDAs and Nigeria at large.

PACAC, ACAs Task African Leaders on Synergy Against Corruption

By Oluwaseyi Ade-Adams

The Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC) Professor Itse Sagay, SAN has enjoined African leaders to join forces against corruption, saying that Africa was the worst hit by corruption which must be fought vigorously.

The PACAC Chairman said this through the Executive Secretary, PACAC, Professor Sadiq Isah Radda, while delivering his opening remarks at the 5th African Union Day of Anti-Corruption on the theme "Regional Economic Communities: Critical Actors in the Implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption".

Speaking on some of the social problems caused by corruption in Africa, the PACAC Chairman advised African leaders to work tirelessly, and also collaborate to achieve better results in the anti-corruption fight.

Prof. Sagay went further said that Africa was bleeding as a result of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and therefore urged African states to cooperate and speak with one voice to ensure that IFFs and looted funds stashed in other jurisdictions were recovered and repatriated, adding that "Instability in Africa would lead to instability in the World."

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye, SAN, said that the theme to mark the African Union (AU) Day of Anti-Corruption was apt as it was time for the practical and sustainable implementation of the AU resolutions against corruption.

Prof. Owasanoye also lent his voice on the need for synergy amongst agencies, inexperience, and information sharing to advance the scope of the anti-corruption fight.

Speaking on some of the achievements

of the Commission, Prof. Owasanoye explained how ICPC had collaborated with the Media, Civil Society Organisations, MDAs, Anti-Corruption Agencies, traditional and religious bodies, and the youths to nip corruption in the bud.

The ICPC boss expressed the belief that the outcome of the event would guide ACAs on its activities in support of anti-corruption measures for the benefit of the African region. He went further to



say that the Commission would continue to intensify its efforts in the effective prevention of corruption by blocking loopholes

In his goodwill message at the event, the Chairman Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption, Senator Suleiman Abdu Kwari, advised that a futuristic approach be adopted by anti-corruption agencies in tackling corruption-related issues in Africa.

Sen. Abdu Kwari while highlighting the challenges of financial crimes in the country stressed that money laundering was a crime that could not be avoided especially with the amorphous nature it was assuming and advised anti-corruption agencies to put modern technological measures in place to be a step ahead in the anti-corruption fight.

In his remarks, Director and Chief Executive Officer NFIU, Modibbo Haman Tukur opined that for sustainable development to be achieved in Africa there was the need for the AU

Agenda 2063 to be adopted and implemented at both regional and national levels.

He, therefore, advised that funds that had been earmarked for social and developmental purposes, in line with the Agenda 2063 goals and priorities, be used judiciously to reflect transparency, accountability, and integrity.

The EFCC Chairman, Abdulsheed Bawa, in his remarks said that corruption was a serious threat to the development, prosperity, stability, and security of the African continent. Bawa, who was represented by the Director of Intelligence, Abubakar Saad, also said that Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should encourage trade and cooperation to prevent corruption as well as foster joint training and information sharing among anti-corruption agencies in Africa.

Also delivering his remarks at the event, the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), Prof. Mohammed Isah, represented by Fatima Kere-Ahmed said that corruption was one of the obstacles to sustainable development, security, and welfare in Africa, and therefore stressed the need for synergy amongst anti-corruption agencies.

In his remarks, Country Representative United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Oliver Stolpe, said it was important for Nigeria to share initiatives with other African countries, especially to ensure that citizens were protected from the effects of corruption.

A technical session was held and issues bordering on IFFs, asset recovery, the role of RECs in the fight against corruption, amongst others, were discussed and addressed by panelists from ICPC and EFCC. The event was organized by PACAC and other collaborating partners such as ICPC, CCB, EFCC, and NFIU.



3RD NATIONAL SUMMIT ON DIMINISHING CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

THEME: CORRUPTION AND COST OF GOVERNANCE: NEW IMPERATIVES FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

30TH NOVEMBER, 2021

GOODWILL MESSAGES AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



MUHAMMADU BUHARI
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
OF THE ARMED FORCES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



SEN. AHMED LAWAN
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



HON. JUSTICE I. T. MOHAMMED
CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA



BOSS MUSTAPHA
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FEDERATION



ZAINAB SHAMSUNA AHMED
MINISTER OF FINANCE, BUDGET
AND NATIONAL PLANNING



PROF. BOLAJI OWASANOYE (SAN)
HON. CHAIRMAN, ICPC

PANELISTS

MODERATOR



MAUPE OGUN-YUSUF



BEN AKABUEZE
CORRUPTION AND COST
OF GOVERNANCE IN
RECRUITMENT



PROF. ISHAQ OLOYEDE
CORRUPTION AND COST
OF GOVERNANCE IN THE
EDUCATION SECTOR



ENE OBI
CORRUPTION AND COST OF
GOVERNANCE IN THE
HEALTH SECTOR



09:30am (WAT)
(All participants are to
be seated by 9:00am)



**State House Conference
Centre, Abuja**
(Physical attendance is
strictly by invitation)



HAFIZ H. MOHAMMED
CORRUPTION AND COST OF
GOVERNANCE IN THE EXECUTION
OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS



PROF. SADIQ RADDA
CORRUPTION AND COST
OF GOVERNANCE IN
SECURITY SPENDING



A. B. OKAURU ESQ.
CORRUPTION AND
COST OF GOVERNANCE AT
SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS

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