**Opening Remarks by the Chairman of ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu SAN at A One-Day Workshop on Effective Collaboration in Corruption Prevention with the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Organized by ICPC and held at Reiz Continental Hotel, Central Area, Abuja on Monday 21st October 2024**

**Protocol:**

I am honoured to welcome you to this landmark workshop between the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ). It is truly gratifying to see critical stakeholders in the information and public relations sector united by our shared goal of combating corruption for the benefit of our nation. The spirit of patriotism and shared responsibility in this room gives me great confidence that our objectives for today will be achieved.

Corruption is indeed a complex and deeply entrenched challenge within various facets of our society. Addressing this reality requires a multifaceted approach, with all of us playing our part. As enshrined in Section 15(5) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, one of the main functions of government in Nigeria is to combat corruption and abuse of office. The mandates of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), as outlined in Section 6(a)-(f) of the ICPC Act 2000, include receiving petitions, conducting investigations, prosecuting offenders, and engaging in public enlightenment and education in the fight against corruption.

The ICPC is dedicated to fulfilling its mandate under the law. Information is one of our most potent tools, and this is where the media becomes indispensable. The power of the press—through investigative journalism, policy analysis, and online advocacy—cannot be overstated.

As we know, the media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and driving accountability. Investigative journalism exposes corruption, holds public officials accountable, and facilitates transparency. The ICPC has long valued its collaboration with the media, partnering on initiatives such as investigative training, radio and television programs, and tracking anti-corruption projects, including the Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Initiative. The media's role in amplifying these efforts is critical to ensuring that public resources are utilised effectively and that projects meet quality specifications.

The media can also serve as a platform for advocacy, using editorials, blogs, and opinion pieces to raise public awareness about corruption. Furthermore, online campaigns via social media can mobilise public support for anti-corruption activities, while podcasts like our recently launched EthicsPod offer incisive discussions on ethics and integrity. The EthicsPod gives Nigerians a voice, allowing them to contribute ideas for promoting ethics, integrity, and the fight against corruption. You can find it on YouTube, Spotify, Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram @icpcnigeria.

The recent Supreme Court decision granting financial autonomy to local governments presents new opportunities for the ICPC and the media to collaborate in promoting transparency and accountability at the grassroots level. We are also advancing initiatives like the Local Government Integrity Initiative and advocating for Literary Activism to inspire behaviour change through literature, jingles, and thematic short videos.

After 24 years of dedicated work in anti-corruption, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is more than ever committed to effective collaboration with all critical stakeholders in the fight against corruption. The media is a significant partner in this endeavour. To this end, and informed by critical empirical studies on corruption in Nigeria, ICPC has aligned its Strategic Action Plan for 2024-2028 with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). A key objective of the ICPC’s 2024-2028 Strategic Action Plan (SAP) is to mobilise citizens for effective anti-corruption efforts, aligning with the pillars of the NACS focused on engagement and ethical reorientation.

Recognizing the importance of communication in driving our action plan, we have developed a robust Communication Strategy and reviewed our four-year-old Communication Policy to ensure they are aligned with present national realities.

At the ICPC, we understand the significant influence of the media in raising awareness, educating the public, and promoting accountability at both micro and macro levels. Given our core mandate and the various anti-corruption and corruption prevention initiatives we have introduced, we appreciate that the power of the pen is a vital weapon in our collective fight against corruption.

I also want to take this opportunity to appeal to all Nigerians to support public officials in their commitment to integrity. It is essential that we create an environment where ethical conduct is encouraged and celebrated. By fostering a culture of accountability and transparency, we can collectively strengthen our institutions and contribute to a corruption-free Nigeria.

As we proceed with today’s workshop, I hope that the insights from our expert presentations and panel discussions will enhance journalists' understanding of the ICPC’s mandates and lead to a formal platform for collaboration aimed at preventing corruption. The ICPC views the media as a vital partner and co-change agent in our collective mission to reshape mindsets for sustainable development.

Together, we can drive meaningful change. I wish all of us fruitful deliberations and thank you for your attention.

**Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN
Chairman, ICPC.**