

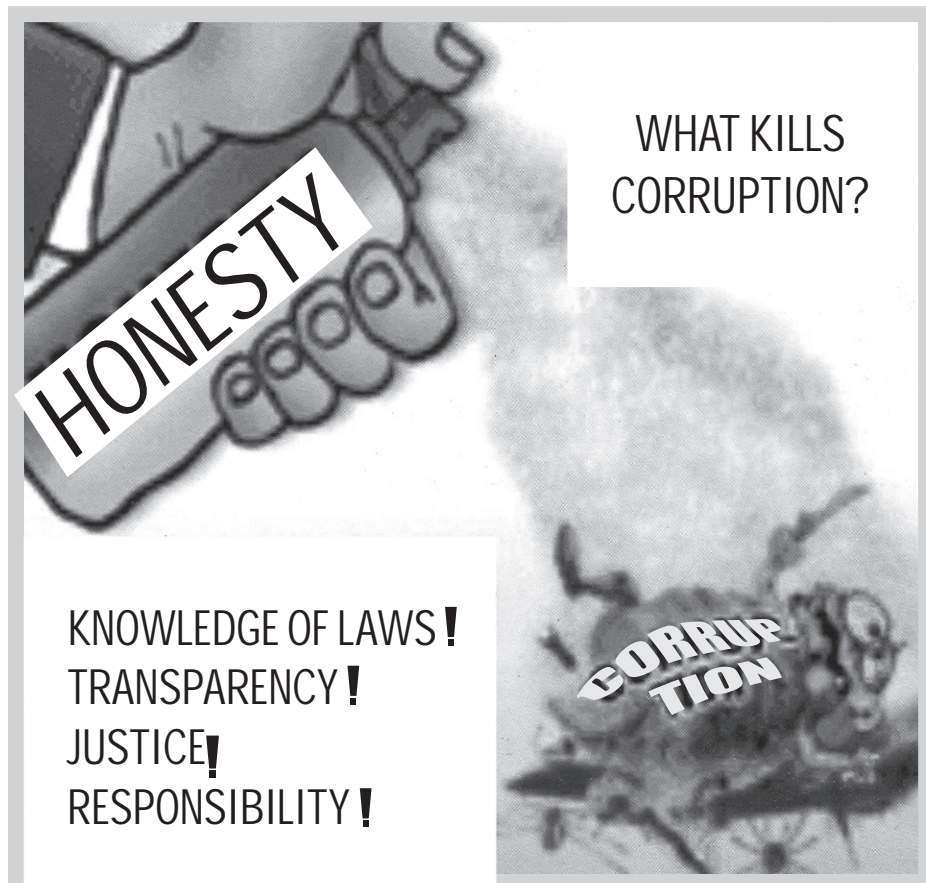


ICPC NEWS

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Corruption Prevention: ICPC trains Assistant Directors to head ACTUs.

By Winifred Ingobro

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has trained assistant directors to take over the headship of Anti-Corruption and Transparency monitoring Units (ACTU) in Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) in a bid to reinvigorate them. ACTUs were conceived as mini ICPCs to be embedded within the MDAs with all the powers of the ICPC except prosecution.

Speaking on the importance of the exercise during the opening ceremony, the Chairman of ICPC, Mr. Ekpo Nta said the selection of the assistant directors as heads of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Monitoring Units (ACTU) in MDAs is due to the fact that they hold a command position in the affairs of government at their entry level into the director cadre, adding that as assistant directors they wield a level of influence which would be a defining factor of their personality when they eventually move up the ladder as directors, permanent secretaries and head of service.

He said their selection was also fueled by the fact that the current mood in the anti-corruption drive locally and internationally is that organized corruption and crime cannot co-exist if Nigerians are to reap the benefits of good governance which include access to good education, affordable healthcare, food and shelter; leisure and general well-being.

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From the Chairman's Desk

One of the provisions in the ICPC law specifically mandates the Commission to "...examine the practices, systems and procedures of public bodies and where, in the opinion of the Commission, such practices, systems or procedures aid or facilitate fraud or corruption, to direct and supervise a review". This provision and others like it on corruption prevention account for 50% of the provisions on the Commission's functions which encompass enforcement, prevention and education against corruption.

By the same token, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) devotes an entire chapter to prevention against corruption. The ICPC Act and the UNCAC appear to affirm the adage that "Prevention is better than cure". With corruption, as with most other undesirable conditions, it is much better and wiser to prevent occurrence than to expend huge resources after the damage has been done. Even though the law eventually catches up with corrupt persons, a lot of time and resources can be saved if we flag corruption risks in systems and plug loopholes to prevent the incidence of corruption.

In the light of the foregoing, the importance of the training on Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) is self-evident. The CRA is an initiative that ICPC is proud of and which will be most useful in its operations.

...As I have stated, the CRA project has produced a generic tool for conducting Corruption Risk Assessment. This tool, while reflective of international experience is specially tailored to the Nigerian environment. As such, it can be applied to any agency or operational system in the country as a barometer for identifying corruption threats and vulnerabilities.

- Mr. Ekpo Nta, ICPC Chairman.

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Place National Interest above all things

– David Mark tells Broadcast Organisations

By Anike Adeshina

The Senate President, Senator David Mark has urged Nigerians to always place the nation above contending desires of pleasure or self-seeking intentions.

Senator David mark made this remark while speaking at the 57th General Assembly of the Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON) which took place in Otukpo, Benue State recently.

He also warned members of the broadcasting organization to be guided by the right ethics of their profession and avoid using the media as channels of peddling falsehood. In particular, he cited a recent rumour aired via a particular radio station saying that his convoy was involved in a ghastly motor accident somewhere in Benue State when he was at the purported time, not anywhere around Benue State.

Commenting on the inability of Nigeria to secure the broadcast rights of the last African Cup of Nations tournament due to the highly exploitative price tag placed by the sponsors, Senator Mark said that Nigerians should stop doing things at the expense of the nation's pride and national integrity.

The ICPC Chairman who was represented at the occasion by the Secretary of ICPC, Mr. Elvis Oglafa, said

that it was sad to note that despite the abundant human and material resources that Nigeria is blessed with, corruption has continued to be a major cog in the wheel of the country's development.

He observed that corruption has continued to be a major setback in the developmental efforts of the government and other well-meaning citizens of the nation.

He encouraged members of the Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON) to join in the crusade of warring against corruption by charging moderate rates for broadcasting anti-corruption jingles and programmes presented to them by the Commission and other anti-graft agencies. The Commission's Secretary added that the ICPC would appreciate positive collaboration and gainful contributions of broadcasting organizations towards stamping out corruption in the country.

Oglafa enumerated the operational mandate of the Commission, why people are corrupt, persons likely to be corrupt and organizational lapses that are likely to foster corrupt practices, amongst others. He warned participants to shun all forms of corruption and to familiarize themselves with the ICPC Act 2000 so that corrupt acts and other related

offences as stipulated in the act would be clear to them.

The 57th General Assembly of the Broadcasting Organization of Nigeria (BON) was attended by several top officials of both government and private-owned broadcasting organizations from across Nigeria. The Governor of Benue State, Mr. Gabriel Suswan was represented at the occasion by his deputy, Mr. Steven Lawani.

Dignitaries from all works of life in Benue State including the popular musician; Bongos Ikwue also graced the occasion.

A staff of the ICPC is vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities of a police officer, under the police Act and any other laws conferring power on the police, or empowering and protecting the law enforcement agents in accordance with S.5(1) of Act No.5 of 2000

ICPC Chairman urges NGOs to scale up Anti-corruption activities

By Hauwa Madu

The Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, Mr. Ekpo Nta has urged the Non-Governmental Agencies to scale up their activities in the campaign against corruption.

Mr. Nta made this call while receiving TETRA-TEC, consultant of the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) led by Dr. Paul Lubec at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja.

He noted with dismay how Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) pay more attention to other issues like HIV and Malaria rather than corruption, forgetting the fact that, it would be easier to phase out HIV and other problems if

corruption was curbed.

Speaking further, Mr. Nta informed the delegation that the Commission was reviewing the educational sector(i.e. the universities) as its measures to sanitize that sector and hope to see the reading culture which have disappeared from the society due to the emergence of information technology (computer, G.S.M) being brought back.

He then seeks for more collaboration between the Commission, USAID and other NGOs in all areas of ICPC's mandate.

Earlier, Dr. Paul had said the team was out to get views of Nigerians and stakeholders on issues bordering on democracy, human rights and corruption in

which the report would be used to form part of USAID budget review for five years for Nigeria.

He further said, that the visit would expose the team to challenges facing Nigeria and the processes she has put in place to overcome them. He adding that it would also help it to ascertain the level of progress the country had made in democracy, human rights and in the war against corruption in order to make appropriate recommendations to USAID.

He described the ICPC as a "strategic organization that takes care of key challenges" and pledged to see how they would assist the Commission to deliver on its mandate.

ICPC Commissions Project by Anti-corruption CDS Group at Enugu

By Chinwe Nwozor (Enugu)

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Enugu Zonal Office has commissioned a bus stop renovated by the Anti-corruption CDS group Batch C 2012, at Ugbawka Nkanu East LGA of Enugu State.

Commissioning the project, Miss Chinwe Nwozor, Principal Information Officer of the ICPC, extolled the efforts of the corpsmembers in utilizing their time and resources in helping the community. She encouraged the youths to shun all forms of corrupt transactions and to report cases of shady practices to anti corruption agencies.

While delivering a paper titled; "*Participation of Youths in the War against Corruption*" during the commissioning ceremony, she appealed to the corps members to be diligent, hardworking and self disciplined and to educate other people on the dangers of corruption. She said the ICPC regards the youths as strategic partners in the crusade against corruption because they have the vibrancy, physical and mental alertness, passion for life, creativity and exuberance to make them instruments for social change.

She said the involvement of youth in the fight against corruption would bring in new and

fresh ideas that could replace older and out-of-date policies, thereby creating new levels of enthusiasm and productivity. She called on the Corps members to imbibe the virtues of honesty, accountability and integrity in all their dealings.

Miss Nwozor enumerated other activities, members of the anti- corruption CDS group could carry out to help reduce corruption in the community, which included the establishment of Anti-Corruption Clubs in secondary schools, organising debate, quiz and essay writing competitions among students, in addition to organizing sensitization seminars, rallies and road-march. She said they could also construct and mount

bill-boards with anti-corruption messages and deliver Integrity Lectures to students in both primary and secondary schools.

Contributing, Mr. Johnson Onyenka, NYSC Local Government Inspector, who was at the occasion, stated that a corrupt society holds no future for its youth as there would be no quality education and no gainful employment. He added that corruption retards societal development and brings about destabilizing frustration and violence in the youth as it promises only poverty with no future and no means of livelihood.

Mr. Onyenka commended the ICPC for enlightening the corps members on the various ways they could help

in combating corruption in their places of primary assignment and in the community. He said if the corps members execute one or more of the projects during their service year, it would help to inculcate transparency, sound societal ethics and morality in the youth in their formative years and motivate them to maintain high standards of moral virtue and be ready to report all cases of corrupt practices to the appropriate authorities.

A staff of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Mrs Glory Chime, in her own remarks, enjoined the corps members to utilize all the information they had received from the lecture to help educate others and execute activities that would help minimise the incidence of corruption in the community. She

stated that the fight against corruption is a war that Nigerians must win and corps members must dissociate themselves from any action that would lead to corruption.

Earlier in his welcome address, the President of ICPC CDS group, Mr. Olusegun Kehinde Samuel said the renovation of the bus stop was part of their community development project to help the members of the community enjoy a decent shelter and environment while waiting to board vehicles. He added that the sensitization lecture was to educate the corps members on the negative consequences of corrupt practices on the national economy and development and the role they could play to guarantee the elimination of the pandemic.

Corruption has no tribe - NIPSS Boss

Samuel David Damdakalak (Makurdi)

The Director General, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru, Professor Mohammed Bande Tijjani has described Corruption as having no religion, tribe or color.

He said these during a one day sensitization workshop organized by the Anti-Corruption & Transparency Unit (ACTU) of the national institute in collaboration with the ICPC recently.

The Director General who was represented by Head, Human Resource Department of the Institute, Mrs. Beatrice Agu, urged participants to put into practice all they would learn during the workshop to ensure a corrupt-free environment at the national institute.

Declaring the workshop open, he commended the ICPC and the ACTU members for their efforts in organizing such an enlightenment programme for all staff of the Institute.

Presenting the first paper, "Preliminary Investigation Methods and

Strategies" Mr. Olayinka A. Aigebayo of the ICPC headquarters Abuja lamented that, though corruption has done us so much harm and brought so much reproach on all Nigerians, he felt there could be light at the end of the tunnel if all Nigerians chose to live a transparent lifestyle, and the country had a disciplined and purposeful leadership.

Mr. Olayinka reminded the participants that, the task of fighting corruption should not be left to the anti-graft agencies alone, but all citizens should contribute in one way or the other. He further explained that, the paper was intended to highlight to the participants, methods and strategies expected to be adopted by the ACTU when investigating a reported case of corruption and forwarding reports to the ICPC.

Another speaker at the occasion, Mr. Ebhotemen Kennedy of the Planning and Research Department ICPC described corruption as a critical threat to Nigeria's growth and is responsible for the current poverty, unemployment and insecurity the nation is witnessing today. Mr. Kennedy in his paper "The Role of ACTU in Fighting Corruption" said, ACTUs are like a microcosm of the ICPC carrying all the functions of ICPC as provided in Section 6(a) – (f) of the Corrupt Practices Act 2000 except prosecution.

He called on all NIPSS Staff to sustain the fight against corruption in order to create a corrupt-free environment.

Continued from Cover page

Corruption Prevention: ICPC trains Assistant Directors to head ACTUs.

Honorable Nta commended the selection of the participants and urged them to be attentive during the training because of the importance of the task ahead of them as ACTU heads. He added that the training was a means of equipping them for the task and battle ahead which would make them key reformer and special advisers in the affairs of government. He said: "You will to all intents and purposes become the conscience of the MDAs and your interpretation of your roles will make or mar you".

The ICPC boss revealed that although some of the participants might have attended workshops and seminars on corruption in the past, however, the training programme was unique because it was the first of its kind organized by the ICPC in collaboration with the Head of Civil Service of the Federation with the sole intent of exposing the Assistant Directors to headship and coordinating roles in repositioning the activities and operations of ACTUs.

He maintained that anti-corruption campaign as pursued by the ICPC was change driven and in line with the Federal Government's intention to see that the Public Service lead the fight to eradicate corruption in Nigeria, hence the appointment of the Assistant Directors as heads of ACTU, adding that he believed their selection was based on their level of integrity, high ethical standard and commitment to the anti-corruption campaign.

Mr. Nta said the selected officers are expected to be active wherever they are posted to and should not allow authorities in such organization to intimidate them in the performance of their duties. Moreover as ambassadors of the Commission, they are expected to be practical examples to others in the fight against

corruption in helping to create and sustain a corruption free and transparent working environment in all government institutions and parastatals. In his words, "If you are active it means ICPC will fly high and if you are inactive, it means the Commission will fly low".

In conclusion, the ICPC boss emphasized that because the Public Service is the window through which the outside world glimpses into a nation, an efficient and corruption free public service gives a positive signal to the seriousness of the country to do business with the rest of the world.

Also speaking at the event, the Head of Service of the Federation represented by the Permanent Secretary, Management Services Offices, Mr. Ezekiel O. Oyemomi commended the ICPC for organizing the training exercise, particularly because it is a means of equipping the selected officers on the rudiments of their assignment in assisting anti-corruption agencies in the campaign against corruption.

He maintained that the timing of the training was apt because it came at a time when government was intensifying its efforts geared towards promoting accountability and transparency in the conduct of government business to enhance the delivery of good governance to the people.

He said the establishment of anti-graft bodies across the country was borne out of the need to reverse the adverse effect of corruption on the nation's development.

The Head of Service said although ACTUs were established to serve as anti-corruption watchdogs in MDAs but they have not been active hence the deployment of Assistant Directors

who are considered senior enough to head the units and make the desired impact. He urged them to demonstrate the virtues for which they are selected in the discharge of their duties and should also create awareness and sensitise staff in their various MDAs on the ills and consequences of corrupt practices.

The representative of the Department for International Development (DFID) in Nigeria, Mr. Emmanuel Uche commended the Head of Service of the Federation for establishing ACTU at the instance of the ICPC saying it shows a passion to enshrine credibility in how government business is conducted in Nigeria. He said he was glad with the present change in the headship of the ACTUs because they would not only serve as watchdogs of the ICPC but also serve as its engine in the anti-corruption campaign.

Mr. Uche also said that the task ahead of the Assistant Directors was onerous and they are expected to perform well as their effort will indirectly contribute to Nigeria's rating in the anti-corruption index.

The first paper titled "Corruption Risk Assessment Strategies: Towards Strengthening Institutional Integrity and Quality of Service Delivery was delivered by Mr. Amos Oboh of Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR). He said the menace of corruption in Nigeria prompted stakeholders in the anti-graft campaign towards developing a holistic National Strategy to Combat Corruption and the approach is aligned with other government policies geared towards developing the nation.

He also said that as part of the holistic approach to corruption, a team of international and local consultants developed the methodology and tools

for the conducting Corruption Risk Assessment in Nigeria and about 100 potential Corruption Risk Assessors were selected to undergo training as CRAs out of which 69 successfully completed the training and are certified CRAs.

The second paper was delivered by Mr. Godwin Oche of the Planning Research and Review Department of the ICPC. In his paper titled "Strategies and Methodologies of System and Review of Public Sector Institutions", Mr. Oche was able to enlighten and educate the participants step by step on how they can fight corrupt practices in the work place through the review of corruption prone systems.

In his delivery of the paper titled "Draft Procurement Monitoring Template for ACTUs, Mr. Okeke Anya of the Justice for All (J4A) engaged participants in a practical methodology of developing templates for monitoring the activities of ACTUs based on their

various MDAs.

Mr. Edet Ufot, delivered the paper titled "Strategies and Methodologies of Enlightening the Public, on and against Corruption" on behalf of the Head of Public Enlightenment Department of the ICPC. He discussed and expatiated on the best approaches that can be employed by the Assistant Directors as ACTU heads in passing across the anti-corruption message in their various MDAs.

Mr. Justin Kuatea, the Head of ACTU Secretariat, ICPC in his paper titled "Overview of ACTU Standing Order and Performance Monitoring Template" explained the modalities entailed in the selection, leadership and operations of the ACTUs as dictated by the Standing Order establishing the ACTUs.

The last session at the training programme was held by Dr. Cephas Lerewonu of the J4A, who spoke on a range of topics that could enhance the

activities of the ACTU heads and some of the topics included "The Role and Functions of ACTUs as Ethics and Compliance Units: Towards and Understanding of an expanded Schedule of the ACTUs" and "Organisational Ethics and How to Exercise Leadership with Integrity".

At the end of the training session, the Secretary to the ICPC, Mr. Elvis Oglafa in his closing remarks said the performance of the Assistant Directors was critical to the anti-corruption drive because the ICPC wants to ensure that government institutions are working properly. He charged them to serve as exemplary leaders and ensure that they are solution providers to issues that borders on corruption in the MDAs.

Mr. Oglafa used the opportunity to commend all the funding partners for the training programme and thereafter presented certificates to the participants on behalf of the Commission.

"Prepare to make a remarkable change" - ICPC Chairman to 360 new recruits

By Anike Adeshina

Newly recruited staff of the ICPC have been advised to be ready to make a remarkable impact in the war against corruption. The Chairman of the ICPC, Barrister Ekpo Nta who was represented by Barrister Abdullahi Bako, Member ICPC, gave this advice to the officers while speaking at the opening ceremony of the 6-week training programme organised for the newly recruited officers in Abuja.

The Chairman said the officers should consider it a great privilege to have made the final list of 360 selected among the over 30,000 applicants who jostled for months

through various stages of written and oral examinations to be shortlisted for the various positions applied for. He said that in the spirit of the current paradigm shift of the Commission, the trainees should prepare to make a remarkable change in the war against corruption adding that job suitability assessment of each of the staff is not ended until after the 6-week training programme when each of them would have been tested and eventually certified to have the right character qualities; aside from the physical and mental ability required to be staff of the Commission.

Also present at the opening ceremony were the Deputy Commandant of the Defence Intelligence School (DIS),

Group Captain Kayode Adediji (who represented the Commandant; DIS), Colonel Sambo, Mr. Charles Oluwatuase and some other top officials of the DIS. The Provost of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC); Commandant Daniel Wabulari, Assistant Commandant Shehu Shodehinde and other top officers of the NSCDC were also in attendance at the ceremony.

After the opening ceremony, heads of departments and units of the ICPC gave brief overviews of their respective departments and units. The newly recruited 360 Officers are made up of 44 junior officers and 316 senior officers.

SON D-G calls for collaboration between Anti-graft Agencies

By Winifred Ingobro

The Director General of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Dr. Joseph Odumodu has called for collaboration between anti-graft agencies in Nigeria to stop corrupt practices among which is the importation of substandard products into the Nigerian market.

Dr. Odumodu made the call during a courtesy call to the Chairman of the ICPC, Mr. Ekpo Nta at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja.

He maintained that because of the transformation agenda being pursued by his organization, there is need for a collaborative effort between government agencies to ensure that there is zero tolerance for corruption.

The D-G lamented that despite the efforts of the SON to ensure that substandard products and goods become a thing of the past in the Nigerian market through its public enlightenment drive, some corrupt importers are hell-bent on thwarting this effort by engaging in the importation of products through the back door and they end up flooding the market with substandard products which has done a lot of harm to the country.

To curb this act perpetrated by corrupt importers, he said the SON has already set in motion a machinery to end this corrupt act.

According to him, the organization would soon establish an electronic system of registering products imported into the country.

Dr. Odumodu explained further that the electronic system of registration would assist officials of his organization in detecting fake and substandard products. This is because products imported through the proper channel would be checked and assigned a registration number thereby ensuring that officials of SON can easily pick a product in the market

and detect if such product is fake or genuine through its registration number or the absence of one.

To him, this method would when implemented would go a long way in checkmating the scourge of substandard products that has bedeviled the Nigeria market and also caused a lot of destruction and the loss of life.

The SON D.G explained that it is imperative for his organization to seek the support of the ICPC because assistance rendered by the Commission would enhance the performance of his staff in curbing the importation of fake and substandard product into the country. He said SON was seeking the support of ICPC because of the mandate given the Commission to rid the nation of corruption and the experience it would have gathered in the course of investigating and prosecuting corrupt acts nationwide. He maintained that due to the experience of ICPC in the campaign against corruption, any assistance given to his organisation would ensure that the importation of fake, banned and substandard goods and product are gradually eliminated as importers who practice this form of corruption would be apprehended and given the punishment they deserve under the law.

As he pointed out, "If ICPC can assist in the area of investigation on how fake, banned and substandard goods are imported and how to stop the business because it is a form of corruption, the SON would be able to impound and destroy such goods before they flood the market". He maintained that his organization is trying as much as possible to ensure that fake, banned and substandard goods do not flood the Nigerian market and mentioned the effort of SON towards curbing the importation of expired motor vehicle tires and fake copper wires. To him, it is necessary for anti-graft agencies to

explore the preventive approach of curbing corruption in Nigeria to sustain the transformation agenda of the Federal Government.

Responding to the request of the D-G of SON, the Chairman of the ICPC, Mr. Ekpo Nta lauded the efforts of the organization towards curbing the importation of bad products into the market because it has to do with quality control assurance. He lamented that some Nigerians prefer to purchase cheap products to their detriment and it has led to the loss of lives. He also lamented that some unscrupulous trading partners of the country have thrown ethics to the winds and have decided to continue to flood the market with cheap products to satisfy the urge of these group and they are also aided by the porous borders, to cause the flooding of Nigerian shores with fake, banned and substandard products.

Mr. Nta said the ICPC is willing to assist the SON in the area of investigation by sending some of its investigators to train officials of the organization on how to carry out investigation in their line of duty. He revealed that the ICPC had gone a step further in its preventive approach in the anti-corruption campaign by graduating pioneer Corruption Risk Assessors that comprise staff from different organizations in the country including the ICPC to serve as quality control officers in the anti-corruption campaign. He said the programme was completed through the support and assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The ICPC boss pointed out that if all the agencies involved in fighting corruption in Nigeria work in concert, there would be room for improvement in quality control of goods brought into the country. He added that foreign countries should be compelled to maintain quality assurance with the goods imported to Nigeria and universities should be

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Public Complaints Commission pays courtesy visit to the ICPC, seeks collaboration — By Hauwa Sani Garba

The Honourable Chief Commissioner, Public Complaints Commission (PCC), Justice George Idenyi Uloko has emphasized on the need for effective synergy and collaboration between the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and Public Complaints Commission in order to achieve success in the war against corruption in Nigeria.

Delivering an address while on a courtesy visit to the ICPC recently, Justice Uloko said by virtue of the PCC mandate, the commission is expected to refer to the ICPC or other Security Agencies any case bordering on corruption that may have come to its knowledge in the performance of its duties.

Explaining the function of the PCC, Justice Uloko stated that the commission is empowered to initiate, receive, process and inquire into a wide variety of complaints lodged before it by members of the public pertaining to any inappropriate and misdirected administrative procedures of any court of law in Nigeria.

He said as part of the PCC role in corruption prevention, the commission ensures that due administrative processes are not subverted which as he observes also corresponds with one of the mandates of the ICPC which is to examine the practices, systems and procedures of

public bodies.

Speaking further, Justice Uloko noted that the above relationship between the two agencies in the area of its function further underscores the need for a healthy collaboration and partnership between the PCC and ICPC in the area of information sharing, training of investigators and prosecutors as well as in the areas of mutual technical assistance.

In his comment the ICPC Chairman, Mr. Ekpo Nta represented by a member of the Commission, Hon Bako Abdullahi affirmed the relationship that exists between the ICPC and PCC saying both agencies are established to fight corruption even though with different mandates. He explained that ICPC has one mandate of fighting corruption through a three-prong dimension which is prosecution, system study and research and prevention through education and public enlightenment.

Lamenting on the alarming rate of corruption in the country, Hon Bako affirmed that the major problem facing Nigeria today is corruption, noting that even though fighting corruption was not an easy task as no country has fought it to a standstill, he said it is the responsibility of every Nigeria to join hands with the government to tame the menace.

Speaking further, Bako observed that the PCC needed to do more in the area of publicity to keep

the public informed on their activities; he noted that the PCC is fortunate to have a seasoned judge in the person of Justice Uloko and prayed for God's continued guidance in the discharge of his duties.

In his comment, an Honorable member of the ICPC, Hon Ozi Salami emphasized the need for collaboration between sister agencies noting that when the present ICPC Chairman, Hon Ekpo Nta came on board, he initiated a joint collaboration between the ICPC and the EFCC, the Code of Conduct Bureau and agencies that are related in the fight against corruption. He said such collaborative efforts have started yielding results as staff of the ICPC and EFCC have attended trainings on security and related matters together.

Speaking further, Ozi Salami observed that the culture where people rally around corrupt individuals should be discouraged noting that "we owe it a duty to Nigeria to avoid people who are publicly known to be corrupt" he said people should shun and stop singing praises of corrupt individuals as that itself can serve as deterrence to those who engage in corrupt activities.

The Chief Public Complaint Commissioner of the PCC, Justice G.I. Uloko visited the ICPC Chairman in company of the Secretary to the PCC and some Honourable Commissioners of the Commission.

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SON D-G calls for collaboration between Anti-graft Agencies

industry driven to improve employment and also ensure that graduates who would be working in Nigeria industries are exposed to quality control.

Mr. Nta said the SON can invite the ICPC to do a system study review on its organization to help it improve its delivery of service to the

nation. Mr. Odumodu quickly took the offer by inviting the Commission to assist its officials in carrying out a system study of Nigerian ports because to him, if the system in the ports can be righted where it has gone wrong, it would help his organization to solve part of its problem with bad products. He maintained that his

organization would continue to pursue its enlightenment efforts to discourage Nigerians from buying substandard goods and that they should always insist on the best because it is their right to be given value for money spent.

ICPC concludes pilot study of Nigerian universities

- Study reveals sexual harassment, illegal satellite campuses, etc in Nigerian universities

By Mary Atobo

The ICPC as part of her holistic approach to the fight against corruption has invoked its statutory mandate derived from section 6(b-d) of its enabling law to undertake a comprehensive systems study and review of Nigerian Universities. Systems study and review is one of the activities designed to actualize the preventive mandate of the Commission.

The leader of the system study committee, Professor Olu Aina, an honourable member with ICPC, during the presentation of its pilot report on University Systems Study and Review jointly undertaken with the National Universities Commission (NUC), gave an executive summary of the rot that had eaten deep into the university system.

According to Prof. Aina, three universities were randomly selected from among the 124 universities after stratification on the basis of proprietorship. University of Nigeria, Nsukka was selected from the federal university system while Olabisi Onabamjo University, Ago-Iwoye was selected for the state university system and Salem University, Lokoja from private. He said that all students and staff of the three universities as well as members of the external

communities constituted the population for the study.

Prof. Aina stressed that the University Systems Study and Review was a fact-finding and problem solving strategy that involved the examination of current policies, practices, procedures, behaviours and systems of public bodies to determine if any aid corruption and to what extent they are prone to do so. He added that some of the negative trends in the universities include delay in the take-off of lectures by lecturers, constitution of illegal operation of satellite campuses by universities, sexual harassment; lack of due process in the appointments and promotion of university staff members and racketeering in the appointment of certain persons in to certain positions. These he said, lead to unhealthy developments in the university setting.

Reacting to the report, the ICPC Chairman, Mr. Ekpo Nta, admitted that all the observations raised by the committee were correct, adding that the Commission had received a lot of petitions against many universities in the country, and he promised that ICPC would address these issues and put a stop to them. He

said that any lecturer who indulges in them would be prosecuted accordingly.

According to ICPC boss, "Nigeria's tertiary institutions which are expected to be in the vanguard of ethical education to correct the ills of the society have become the haven for corruption and corruption-related practices".

Ekpo stressed that, ICPC has re-invigorated some of the other components of the responsibilities of the Commission. He further pointed out that "part of the responsibilities of the Commission is the systems study of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and give directives on how to correct those pitfalls and that the battle against corruption is a global collective agenda".

The meeting which was a follow up to findings and observations from the system study and review conducted by the committee into the operations of the Nigerian universities sought to address problem areas and to fashion out ways that would enhance easy access to solutions.

The event was attended by the honourable members, secretary, HOD's and the committee members.

LG Caretaker Committee Chairman in Court for allegedly receiving bribe

By Anike Adeshina

Following a petition submitted to the ICPC by the Director of a Markurdi-based company bothering on a case of N1m bribe purported to have been received by Emmanuel Ogwuche while serving as Caretaker Committee Chairman of Ogbadibo Local Government Council of Benue State sometime around August 2007, a three-count charge has been brought against the accused by the ICPC before the High Court of

Benue State in respect of the allegations.

Relying on Section 8(1) (a) punishable under Section (1) (b) (ii), Section 23 (1) punishable under Section 23 (3) and a third count charge offence punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission Act 2000; the gratification offences were read to the Court when the accused was arraigned on 31st October 2012 in

High Court 4 Markurdi; Benue State.

Counsel to the accused, C.A.Ujah Esq, pleaded with the Judge to allow for another date for the trial of his client stating the un-preparedness on his part as excuse. The judge, in agreement with the ICPC counsel and the counsel to the accused fixed 21st November; 2012 for trial of the accused.

ICPC arraigns former Hon. Member and Ag. Clerk of the House of Representatives

By Mustapha M. Hussain

The ICPC recently arraigned before the High Court of the FCT Mr. Niyi Ajiboye, former Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives and Mercy Almona -Isei, a former member of the House of Representatives whose election was later nullified by the Court of Appeal.

The two accused persons were arraigned on a twelve-count charge. They were accused, among other offences, of engaging in criminal conspiracy by using the position of Niyi Ajiboye as Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives to receive the payment of the sum of N27m from the coffers of the House of Representatives as purported quarterly entitlements when Mercy Almona-Isei falsely paraded herself as the honourable member for Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency, an offence punishable under Sections 68 and 47 of the Corrupt Practices Act 2000.

Almona-Isei is said to have received the said entitlements in disobedience of the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Benin City which nullified her election in June 2008 and restrained her from parading herself as honourable member representing Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency.

The first accused Mr. Niyi Ajiboye, pleaded not guilty to all the charges leveled against him while the second accused Mercy Almona neither pleaded guilty nor innocent, but rather challenged all the charges brought against her.

The presiding Judge Justice Bamijoke granted them bail in the sum of N5m each and a surety in the like sum, who must be a resident of FCT and must provide a bank draft worth N5m. The Court ordered the detention of the accused in ICPC custody if they failed to meet the bail conditions.

The case has been adjourned for further hearing.

ICPC drags University Lecturer to Court

By Chinwe Nwozor (Enugu)

A former Head of Department of Business Administration, Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Dr. Norbert Madu Ile has been arraigned before the Enugu State High Court by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), for allegedly using his position as a public officer for self gratification, an offence that contravenes the provisions of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

The accused person is standing trial on a nine-count charge of corrupt enrichment to the tune of N1,280,000 (One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand) Naira only.

Dr. Norbert Madu Ile was alleged to have used his position as the Head of Department of Business Administration, at Enugu State University of Science and Technology, between September 2006 and May 2008 to gratify himself by directing his secretary, Miss Ude Blessing Ngozi and his Clerk, Mrs. Veronica Ugbonabo on different occasions, to collect illegal levies from both regular and mature students of the department which he termed "accreditation and project defence levy and departmental association dues" without approval; an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 19 of the ICPC Act 2000.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and the defence counsel, Barr. Nwakoby F.G.N made oral application for his bail. The prosecuting counsel, Barr. E. Otti called the attention of the court to the fact that it took the Commission great effort to serve the accused the charge sheet. He stated the need for stringent bail conditions to be given to the accused to ensure he does not jump bail.

The presiding judge, Justice Oluedo granted the accused person bail in the sum of N2 Million and a surety in like sum, the surety must be a public servant on Level 16, with a clear address and resident in Enugu.

The case was adjourned for further hearing.

**SAY NO TO CORRUPTION
YOUR NO COUNT**

NHIS ACTU holds sensitization workshop for Staff in Abuja

By Hauwa Sani Garba

In its efforts to constantly remind staff of what constitutes corruption and related offences, the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit (ACTU), of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) organized a one-day sensitization workshop for its headquarters staff on Grade Levels 10-14 in Abuja recently.

In her welcome address, the Chairperson of the Anti-corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit, Mrs. Nancy Egem-Odey noted that because there is no excuse of ignorance before the law, the unit therefore saw the need to continuously educate and sensitize the NHIS workforce on what leads to corruption and related offences. She said, it is only by constant enlightenment and reminders that staff would become conversant with the need to maintain a high level of integrity in the discharge of their duties.

Speaking further, Mrs. Odey noted that corruption is a burning issue in our national discourse and has become a matter of urgent concern because of the severe harm it has caused the nation. She therefore, urged all to resist the different reasons that make them prone to corruption and advised they lead contented lifestyles.

In his goodwill message, the Hon. Chairman, ICPC, Ekpo Nta Esq. represented by the Director, Corruption Monitoring Department ICPC, Mr. Barnabas. B. Gaji, congratulating the management and the ACTU of the NHIS for putting together the workshop, stated that the war against corruption cannot be

won by leaders who say one thing in public and do something else in private or societies that decry corruption and yet tolerate it in one form or the other. He therefore, urged the ACTU to be resolved and resolute in its determination to carry out the war against corruption.

Speaking further, Mr. Nta noted that corruption within the public service is widespread and involves common occurrences such as delayed files, making wrong claims, favoritism, truancy, outright demand for bribes, and abuse of office, which as he said are all systemic in nature. He also noted that not every public servant is corrupt. "There are many clean ones, and it behoves on all such to labour to redeem the image of the public service," he added. He also urged the participants to translate whatever is learnt into concrete actions in their respective duty posts.

The acting Executive Secretary NHIS, Dr .A. Sambo, represented by the Deputy- General Manager Special Services, Mrs. Aisha Fasanya, in her speech said that the NHIS, places high premium on the conduct of its staff, and therefore, does not hesitate to release fund for matters committed to staff development.

She thanked the management of the NHIS for accepting to organize the workshop and urged the staff to listen and put into practice what will be learnt in the course of the lecture.

Delivering the first paper titled: *Role of Communication in Anti-corruption*, Mr. Obinna Oforah of the Public Enlightenment Department, ICPC noted that having

a communications component in any organization that is looking to operate an effective anti-corruption strategy is a matter of must, as those involved in the anti-corruption battle have identified that promoting public awareness is a central component to advancing the fight against corruption.

He maintained that an effective communications campaign raises awareness among the citizens about corruption-related issues and therefore shapes people's attitudes towards the ill. He also said, communications define and explain different types of corrupt acts that will eventually help the citizens identify actions beyond bribery as well as inform people about their rights and the laws protecting those rights.

Concluding, Mr. Obinna noted that it is of utmost importance for organizations involved in the field of anti- corruption to have a crisis communications plan in place so as to deal with crises as they unfold.

In his presentation of a paper titled an *Introduction to Fraud Response Plan*, Mr. Sola Shodipo, of the ICPC investigation Department defined a Fraud Response Plan as a deliberate action designed by an organization to respond and expose perpetration of fraud, and what actions that should be taken afterwards.

He said in planning a fraud response plan, it is important to emphasize the need for integrity on the part of the management and staff as that on its own serves as deterrent to fraud.

Speaking further, Mr. Shodipo, explaining the various key elements

needed when preparing a fraud response plan. He also said that when planning a fraud response plan, legal considerations such as the ICPC Act, Money laundering Act, Human Rights considerations, the Evidence Act and the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should also be put into consideration in the process of conducting investigations.

The third paper titled: **"Understanding Corruption and Curbing it- The ACTU initiative"** by Abdullahi Tanko Samaila of the ICPC, commended the NHIS and its ACTU for initiating the workshop and also the management for creating an atmosphere conducive to the operations of the unit.

Defining Corruption, Mr. Tanko bemoaned the adverse effect corruption has caused on the socio-cultural, political and economic

aspects of the nation, adding that however the effects, what is consoling is that, Nigeria and Nigerians do not lack solutions and methodologies for combating corruption.

He reminded the participants that ACTUs came into existence in 2001 vide circular HOCSE/4987, 133 and OHCF)192/94 that emanated from the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation on the approval of the Federal Executive Council, with its administration and operational structure clearly spelt out.

He noted that the ACTUs are to operate as autonomous outfits which have direct functional linkages with administrative heads of units, and are to report allegations of corrupt practices to the ICPC, and are also expected to conduct preventive action by

conducting sensitization and enlightenment programs.

Explaining the responsibilities of the NHIS as a service provider, Mr. Tanko stated that failure of the NHIS to deliver on its set objectives is a deviation with attendant consequences which may be due to individual or institutional corruption.

He noted that as an ombudsman, the ACTU is expected to ensure that the overall organizational goals are not derailed by corruption and corrupt practices.

The workshop ended with a very vibrant interactive session as participants expressed their different views on the rate of corruption in the country and what they expected from the government and anti-corruption bodies in the country.

Public Servants urged to join in the Anti-corruption War

By Chinwe Nwozor (Enugu)

A one-day sensitization and awareness lecture on 'Corruption in the workplace' organized by the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit (ACTU) of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, South East Zone, Enugu has ended with an appeal to public servants to imbibe the virtues of transparency and diligence in the execution of their official duties and join hands with anti-corruption agencies in making the country a corrupt free nation.

An official of Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Miss Chinwe Nwozor, Principal Information Officer made this call at the

enlightenment lecture held recently at the agency's conference hall. She said the essence of public service and of governance lies with improving people's quality of life through satisfactory service delivery in an environment of law and order.

While delivering the paper with the topic **'Corruption: An Obstacle to Effective Service Delivery in the Public Service'** Miss Nwozor, who is also the ICPC Desk Officer to the agency, listed some corrupt practices being perpetrated by public servants to include taking advantage of powers/position of authority to commit corrupt practices, improper execution or performance of duty, violation of standing professional ethics, direct request of bribe or

gratification before; during or after services are rendered even to colleagues, inflation of prices of materials bought for the office, abuse, misuse or mismanagement of official facilities and resources amongst others.

She stated that the ACTU and the leadership of organizations should identify procedures and practices that are prone to corruption with a view to reviewing them where necessary and ensure enforcement and maintenance of new non-corrupt prone procedures and practices.

She said the position of public service carries such responsibility that only persons imbued with the essential credentials of integrity, of good stewardship, honesty, self

sacrifice and integrity could completely and effectively deliver quality service to the public, and she stressed that effective supervision, discipline and clear accountability of officials through adequate monitoring of behavior could go a long way to check the spread of corrupt practices as punishment meted out to the bad eggs would serve as a deterrent to others.

Miss Nwozor, pointed out that transparent and professional recruitment of staff would not only ensure that competent people were selected but also show that the process had not been tainted by corrupt considerations and this would surely convey to the officers, in practical terms, the commitment of the organization to transparency and due process.

In her welcome speech, the Zonal Coordinator, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, South East Zone, Enugu, Dr. (Mrs.) D.O. Onwuka, advised the staff to always be firm and upright while discharging their responsibilities as it would affect the lives of the ordinary citizens positively. She added that doing so would eliminate all traces of suspicion and promote probity and accountability in the work place.

The Zonal Coordinator who was represented at the occasion by Mrs. Maudlin Onuora, Chief Confidential Secretary commended the efforts of the ICPC in curbing corruption and expressed optimism that their activities would positively reduce the level of corruption in the country.

In his paper presentation titled *“Education and Advocacy in the Anti-Corruption Crusade in Our Health Institutions”*. Mr. Anselm Ezeh, Principal Education Officer, ICPC emphasized the need to develop a working tool of advocacy to enlighten staff on the way forward against corruption in the health institutions due to the important role they play in preventing diseases and improving health care. He stated that in relation to the crusade against corruption, advocacy could be seen as a means of persuading the public officer or an interested party to change his corrupt ways of doing things and to imbibe the tenets of integrity and transparency.

Mr. Ezeh said that advocacy in organisations could be conducted using such effective tools as: audio, conferences, inter personal communications, workshops, seminars, symposia and the use of promotional items.

He maintained that the role of ACTUs transcends whistle blowing to deliberate, conscious and concerted efforts aimed at persuading staff of their establishment to shun all forms of corrupt tendencies

Earlier in his welcome address the Chairman of ACTU, Mr. Felix Nwaluka said the sensitization programme was to reawaken the consciousness of the staff to the dangers posed by corruption in Nigeria, create passion for transparency and awareness for positive change.

He said corruption, in the work place includes such evils as delay of files, making wrong claims/ submission of spurious bills, favoritism, truancy, bribery, abuse of office, award of fictitious contracts and the likes. He posited that it is only when corruption is successfully eliminated that we can enjoy uninterrupted power supply, good road network, efficient health services and other social facilities. A highlight of the occasion was a group work by the participants to produce advocacy proposal to the management on the need to sensitize staff of the institution against acts of corruption tarnishing the image of the agency.

ICPC sensitizes Youth Corps Members in Kaduna

- By Maryam Muazu

In its strategy of seeking partnership with groups and organizations in the fight against corruption, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related offences Commission recently held a sensitization workshop for youth corps members at the NYSC orientation camp in Kaduna, Kaduna state.

The aim of the lecture was to promote opportunities for the deepening of the consciousness of the youth corps-members on the ills of corruption as well as equip them with the requisite skills to fight corruption in the Country for the enthronement of best practices.

The lectures for the workshop were delivered by Maryam Muazu and Atiku Tanko of the ICPC zonal office Kaduna. They emphasized the roles and responsibilities

of the corps members as whistle-blowers in their places of primary assignment and the necessary steps involved in reporting corrupt practices to ICPC.

The youths were urged to exhibit strong moral principles in their fields of primary assignment as an interim measure and in their vocations as a long term measure.

Mrs. A.T.N Mohammed, the state coordinator for the NYSC, appreciated the efforts of the Commission in emphasizing enlightenment for prevention and correction for youth and urged the youth corps members to be focused in life and report any acts of corruption to the ICPC.

NHIS Staff urged to shun Corruption

By Winifred Ingobro

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) ACTU recently organized a sensitization workshop for some of its staff to enlighten them on the need to shun corruption in the workplace.

In her address at the event, the Chairperson of the ACTU/NHIS, Mrs. Nancy Egem-Odey explained that because of the need for continuous education and sensitization of the people on what corruption entails, the Executive Secretary of the scheme made the approval for the sensitization workshop.

According to her, "There is constant need to continuously educate and sensitise the people on what constitute corruption and what leads to it. It is only by constant enlightenment and reminder that the people will keep abreast with the need to maintain high integrity at work and general conduct."

Mrs. Egem-Odey bemoaned the fact that corruption is a burning issue in Nigeria because of its negative effect on national development, which consequently has caused insecurity of lives and properties.

The NHIS/ACTU Chairperson urged the

staff to cooperate with the Unit so as to rid the workplace of corruption. She revealed that complaint boxes would be mounted strategically at both the headquarters and annex for staff of the organization to lodge genuine complaints.

Speaking at the occasion, the representative of the Executive Secretary of NHIS, the Deputy General Manager, Special Services, Mrs. Aisha Fasanya maintained that corruption was the bane of the country's development hence the need to tackle it by ensuring that integrity is imbibed by all. She added that the sensitization programme was an avenue to encourage the culture of integrity among staff of the organization which would translate to a corruption-free society.

Speaking on behalf of the Chairman of ICPC, Mr. Gaji Barnabas, Director of Corruption Monitoring Department of the ICPC maintained that corruption was a contributory factor in the underdevelopment of Nigeria. He said, "corruption has for a long time been a major obstacle that stands in the way of socio-economic growth and infrastructural development in Nigeria", adding that "From a relatively mild

manifestation at independence, it blew out at an alarming proportion through the years of military misrule until it became endemic".

He also said that the military misrule led to the erosion of time honoured values of honesty, hard work, selflessness and contentment, which was supplanted by greed and outright disregard to due process.

He said the ICPC approach to the fight against corruption is fuelled by the determination to ensure that the culture of corruption, especially in the public service gives way to the culture of integrity. As he emphasized, "We believe any strategy which ignores the entrenchment of these values will not endure".

Mr. Gaji further said that the Commission's aim is not only to reawaken public officers to the virtues of integrity but also to educate them on the conducts that constitute corruption under Nigerian law.

He commended the effort of the NHIS in enlightening officers of the organization on and against corruption saying "If the people gathered here commit themselves to transparency, integrity and

sincere due process, the war against corruption is won in the institutions represented here. And by replication and ripple effect, the remaining staff not here present, would imbibe the spirit".

He maintained that no single individual or institution can adequately meet the challenges posed to the anti-corruption campaign, hence the establishment of ACTUs in MDAs at the prompting of the ICPC to mobilize public servants in the fight against the menace of corruption.

After the goodwill messages, papers were presented by resource persons from the ICPC. The first paper titled "The fight against corruption in governance: ACTU as a Pillar in the Institutional fight against Corruption"

was presented by Mr. Elijah Akaakohol of the Legal Department of ICPC.

Mr. Akaakohol lamented how corruption has destroyed the country's economy and created an unstable political environment, which has also given Nigeria a bad image in the comity of nations.

He noted that as a watchdog of the Commission, members of ACTU are expected to

assist the ICPC in detecting and preventing corrupt practices in the work place.

The second paper was delivered by Mr. Edet Ufot of the Public Enlightenment Department of the ICPC. In his paper titled "Reducing Corruption in Nigeria: What we can do", he outlined some of the

effects of corruption in the society saying, it undermines development, engenders poverty, increases unemployment, distorts government spending and jeopardizes human rights among others.

Mr. Ufot said the effects of corruption can be undone through the setting of personal goals of contentment, upholding

integrity always, making effort to be agents of change and the report of official acts of corruption to the ICPC.

The last paper titled "The ICPC enforcement mandate and the public officer" was delivered by Mr. Olayinka Aiyegbayo of the Investigation Department of the ICPC. He spoke on the various

acts of official corruption that can be tried under the ICPC Act 2000.

The vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Fatima Okunola, Investigative Officer of the NHIS/ACTU immediately after the interactive session.

Kaduna Refinery and Petro-Chemical Company ACTU organizes sensitization workshop

By Atiku Muhammad Tanko

The Anti-Corruption Transparency Unit (ACTU) of the Kaduna Petro-Chemical Company under the auspices of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), has organized Anti-corruption sensitization workshop for its staff.

In his opening remark, Mr. B.E. Aladum, the Anti-Corruption Transparency Unit (ACTU) Chairman, gave an overview of the ACTU Standing Order. He expressed grief on how corruption has incapacitated the nations growth, its economic and political stability. He brimmed with confidence that after the workshop there would be attitudinal change with regards to the scourge.

The Managing Director Kaduna Refinery and Petro-Chemical Company, who was ably represented by the Executive Director

Operations, Dr. Fred Enjugu, expressed worries on the evil of corruption and its effects.

In her paper titled, "Towards increased Transparency and Accountability in Oil and Gas Business" Mrs Rasheedat Okoduwa, the Director, Education Department, ICPC, narrated an exciting anecdote about the Eagle; "The Eagle, the longest living bird has a life expectancy of 70years. At the age of 40, it becomes incapacitated; the beak, claws, feathers, become feeble and cannot catch its prey. It goes to a mountain for a period of five months to knock off its old beak painfully, a new beak grows, it scratches its weak claws for sharper ones, and uses the new claws to comb out the old feathers, and it continues thriving. In a nutshell, this signifies there is hope that Nigerians could ward off corruption in this

nation, she asserted.

She highlighted that corruption in Nigeria was triggered by interplay of environmental, socio-cultural and economic matters. Nigerians, She said have a popular maxim : "where you work is where you eat" which depicts how corruption has eaten deeply into the bone marrow of Nigerians'.

Furthermore, she gave a synopsis of the offences and punishment within the ICPC ambit, and sermonized the populace by throwing a rhetorical question : "what is your purpose of life?".

Mr. Gbenga Oroyewa, a resource person from Economic and Financial Crimes Commission also delved on the ills of corruption, and the level of abject poverty its perpetrators had plunged Nigeria into.

During the interactive session, the Director of Education shed more light on issues pertaining corrupt practices while Mr. Hakeem Lawal clarified a question relating to receiving a verbal instruction from a superior under duress .He swiftly gave a point blank answer that it should be written and duly signed by the superior officer, to exonerate oneself from anything ambiguous.

Present at the occasion were: Head Kaduna Zonal Office, Abubakar Abdullahi, Lawrence Abuo from Planning Research & Review Department (PPR) ICPC Headquarters, Abuja.

Score a Goal
against
CORRUPTION

CONTINUATION OF WEEKLY UP-DATE ON CRIMINAL CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

From 27th March to 29th April, 2013

A/1C/ICPC/2010	FRN VS OKPEVA ABEDNEGO & ANOR	H/C ASABA	DELTA STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	22/04/2013
E/140C/2011	FRN VS FESTUS OZONWANYI	H/C ENUGU	ENUGU STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	22-24/04/2013
BA/37C/2008	FRN VS YAKUBU SHEHU FANTI	H/C BAUCHI	BAUCHI STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	23/04/2013
A/86C/2008	FRN VS HON. SUNY OBI	H/C AWKA	ANAMBRA STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	23/04/2013
A/ICPC/3C/2012	FRN VS AKOMAH ALBERT & ORS	H/C ASABA	DELTA STATE	FOR ARRIGNMENT	25/04/2013
I/3C/ICPC/2007	FRN VS TAJUDEEN OLALERE	H/C IBADAN	OYO STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF DEFENCE	25/04/2013
AK/IC/2012	FRN VS BODE OLAWOYE & ANOR	H/C AKURE	ONDO STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	29/04/2013
CR/62/2012	FRN VS UGOCHUKWU USUAGWU & ANOR	FCT H/C	ABUJA	FOR ARRAIGNMENT/MOTION TO QUASH THE CHARGE	29/04/2013

Benue Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs collaborates with ICPC in the fight against Corruption

By Samuel David Damdakalak - Makurdi

As a step towards genuine transformation of the local government system in Benue State, the Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in conjunction with the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission has organized a one-day workshop for the newly appointed Local Government Caretaker Chairmen, Directors, and Treasurers of all the Local Government Councils in the State.

In the opening remarks, the Special Adviser (SA) Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Mr. Solomon Tor-Wombo said, the workshop was a

demonstration of Benue State government's commitment of repositioning the grass root governance by according priority to capacity building as an impetus to program planning and implementation.

The Special Adviser in his address expressed the desire of the Bureau to partner with ICPC in tackling corruption in the Local Government System through instilling discipline in the management of Public funds and commended ICPC for its effort in fighting corruption.

In his address, the Head, ICPC Benue State office, Prince Hassan Mohammed urged participants to interact freely with ICPC reminding

them that the forum was designed to sensitize the local government officers on how to carry out their responsibilities without getting into trouble.

He decried, "instead of providing succour to the masses at the grass roots level, the Local Government Councils had turned out to be "high temples of wanton corruption and mismanagement."

Prince Mohammed ascribed causes of high incidence of corruption to selfishness, greed, poverty, and poor remuneration.

Others, according to him, are unemployment, moral decadence in our society and quest of becoming rich overnight,

The State Head called on all to cultivate a culture of zero tolerance for corruption and above all practice what they preach.

While delivering his paper titled: "*Institutionalizing the culture of Accountability in Local Government Councils in Benue State,*" Alhaji Bello Dauda from the ICPC Headquarters Abuja accused those in the helm of affairs at the grassroots level of frustrating developmental efforts due to their lack of culture of accountability, transparency and honesty in the administration of local government in Nigeria.

He advocated for a constitutional Provision that would make Local Government Councils in Nigeria responsive and accountable to the people.

The Weak and the Strong

ICPC also protects the weak

-By Edet Ufot

The Age of Enlightenment's *Social Contract* provides the theoretical basis for society. It is posited that individuals who make up society, vested with natural freedoms, willingly give up some of those freedoms and submit to the authority of a sovereign in exchange for the protection of their remaining rights. Thomas Hobbes argues that the human condition devoid of this order can be termed the 'state of nature' where human life would be 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short' because individuals' actions would be bound only by

their personal power and conscience. Consequently, the weak would stand no chance against the strong. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) being one of the extremities of that "sovereign" frequently steps in to protect weak Nigerians against the corrupt and fraudulent strong. The scanned letter below was written to the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ekpo Nta, by an effusively grateful but weak compatriot.

e-Barcs Microfinance Bank Limited
36, Okotie Eboh Crescent
Utako, Abuja.

8th October, 2012

The chairman,
Independent Corrupt Practices' &
Other Related Offences Commission,
Plot 802, Constitution Avenue,
Central Area, Abuja.

Dear Sir/Madam,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I would like to tender my unalloyed and unreserved appreciation for the wonderful work that God is using you and your dedicated staff that God has placed under your control to work with. In fact I am very proud of you. Through your commission, my salary for month of May, 2012 to the tune of Seventeen thousand naira, (N17,000.00) which was refused me by my former employer was recovered.

I could not believe my eyes for the kindness you've shown to me and other lucky Nigerian out there who might have invariably benefited from this commission.

My prayer is that God Almighty that has kept you in that exalted office will continue to lift you up higher and higher in Jesus name.

I remain grateful to God and to the commission for wiping away my tears.

Once again, thank you so much and May God bless you.

Yours faithfully,



Comfort Adie.
COMPLAINANT

DO YOU WISH TO REPORT ANY ACT OF CORRUPTION?

You 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 the ICPC Headquarters, Plot 802, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Abuja or the nearest ICPC State office in the following states and addresses:

- **ADAMAWA**: Former P.T.F. Office, Sir Kashim Imam Way, Yola, Adamawa State.
- **AKWAIBOM**: No. 55D-Line, Ewet Housing Estate, Uyo.
- **BAUCHI**: Plot 10946, Yahaya Abubakar Link, Off Federal Secretariat Road, GRA Bauch
- **BENUE**: Along Ochagwu Lawani Street, Off Otukpo Road, New GRA Makurdi.
- **EDO**: No. 81, Boundary Road, Benin City.
- **ENUGU**: No. 55B, Ezilo Street Independence Layout, Enugu.
- **IMO**: Plot 100, Works Layout, Sister N. Ajaelu Street, Owerri.
- **KADUNA**: No. 7 Wurno Road G.R.A off Rabah Road, Kaduna
- **KANO**: No. 417, Shehu Kazaure Street, Off Mohammed Road, Hotoro GRA, Kano
- **KOGI**: Behind the State Secretariat, Off Barracks Road, Lokoja.
- **LAGOS**: No. 10, Okotie Eboh Street, Ikoyi-Lagos
- **OSUN**: No. 5, Olu Alabi Street, G. R.A Okesia, Oshogbo.
- **OYO**: No.19B, University Crescent, Old Bodija Estate, Ibadan
- **RIVERS**: 4 Chief A.K Horsfall Street, off Williams Jumbo drive, Old G.R.A, Port Harcourt.
- **SOKOTO**: No. 18, Sama Road, Gwiwa Layout, Sokoto.

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**WEEKLY UP-DATE OF CRIMINAL CASES IN VARIOUS
COURTS
HANDLED BY PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT,
ICPC - ABUJA**

From 27th March to 29th April, 2013

CHARGE NO.	PARTIES	COURT	STATE	STATUS	DATE
I/1C/ICPC/2009	FRN RUTH ADEWWE AWETO & ANOR	H/C IBADAN	OYO STATE	FOR RULING ON BAIL APPLICATION PENDING APPEAL	28/03/2013
PHC/639C/2010	FRN VS MORDECAI OGBOGU	H/C P/HARCOURT	RIVERS STATE	FOR DEFENCE	27-28/03/2013
NSD/LF 37C/2011	FRN VS OLUWALE JAMES ADELABU	H/C LAFIA	NASARAWA STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	03-04/04/2013
KTH/20C/2010	FRN VS TASIU MOHAMMED YAMEL	H/C KATSINA	KATSINA STATE	FOR TRIAL WITHIN TRIAL	04/04/2013
E/3C/2008	FRN VS DR. TO NY E. & 2, ORS	H/C ENUGU	ENUGU STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	09/04/2013
MH/39C/2012	FRN VS EMMANUEL OGWUCHE	H/C MAKURDI	BENUE STATE	FOR HEARING	10/04/2013
HAB/ICPC/1C/2007	FRN VS CHIEF DONATUS NJOKU	H/C ABAKALIKI	EBONYI STATE	FOR FINAL ADDRESS	11/04/2013
PLD/J 23C/2007	FRN VS SGT PETER ABBAH	H/C JOS	PLATEAU STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	16/04/2013
SS/19C/2010	FRN VS LAWALI GARBA & ANOR	H/C SOKOTO	SOKOTO STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	16/04/2013
KG/ICPC/1C/2004	FRN VS DR. MICHAEL ESEYIN	H/C KOTON KARFE	KOGI STATE	FOR CONTINUATION OF HEARING	17/04/2013
HOW/49C/2009	FRN VS DENNIS IKE	H/C OWERRI	IMO STATE	FOR RULING ON PRELIMINARY OBJECTION	18/04/2013
I/1C/ICPC/2007	FRN VS BASHIR AKINOLA	H/C IBADAN	OYO STATE	FOR DENOVO	18/04/2013

COMPILED BY: MARKUS ILIYA (Legal Dept. ICPC)

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