

REPORT OF A ONE DAY ANTI-CORRUPTION SENSITIZATION SEMINAR FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLYTECHNIC ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS (NAPAS) AT THE LAGOS STATE POLYTECHNIC, SURULERE CAMPUS, SURULERE, LAGOS ON THURSDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 2013.

The programme commenced at 12:03pm and the ICPC team was introduced to the hightable together with an ICAN representative who is also a lecturer at the Redeemers University - Mr. Kenneth Okpala. The ICPC team that were present are

Mr. Iroka Sampson M.
Mrs. Mary Omonoyan
Miss Popoola Oluwaseyi
Miss Ajiteru Damilola

Mr. Iroka presented the first paper titled "THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTANTS IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION". He explained what the ICPC is all about and some of the activities of the Commission, he enjoined all the students to fight against corruption anywhere they find themselves because this will one day translate into a better Nigeria and with a story he stressed the point of their destiny being in their hands. He thanked the organizers of the programme for giving ICPC the privileged to be part of their programme.

Mr. Iroka made it known to the students that the noble profession of accounting will help tame this "hydra-headed monster" called corruption. He noted that Nigerians must realize that our individual prosperity cannot be diverted from our country as the ICPC, believes that the war against corruption is achievable and can be won. However to achieve this goal in good time, every Nigerian must join the Commission in fighting corruption in one noble way or the other.

The paper defined Accounting as "the art of interpreting, measuring and communicating the results of economic activities". He noted that knowledge of accounting is for everyone irrespective of the chosen primary profession. He further stated that there is a need for Accountants to imbibe their professional ethics in their daily activities. The basic purpose of these ethics is to provide members of the profession with guidelines for conducting themselves in a manner that is allied with the responsibilities of the profession.

The Nigerian Accounting Standard Board that governs the conducts of practicing Accountants highlighted the following codes accountants need to adhere to: Integrity, Objectivity and Independence, Client Confidential Information. He explained to them that any conduct that smacks of cheating, indecency or violation of societal norms and values is tantamount to corruption. He said corruption can be categorized into two components:

- a. the abuse of a position of trust for personal gain.
- b. the exploitation of a flawed system to gain unmerited favours for oneself.

He mentioned some celebrated two cases that has to do with the breach of professional ethics by accountants which are Mr. Bunmi Oni and Mr. Ayo Akadiri of Cadbury Nigeria Plc and that of Enron.

He defined Corruption as a means of dishonest, immoral or illegal behaviours. He noted some forms of corruption which is very common in Nigeria today as Bribery, Nepotism, Fraud, Embezzlement, Examination malpractice, Forgery and Extortion among others. He explained the negative effects of corruption include:

- i. prioritization of development policies and projects are influenced more by selfish and private interest rather than public interest, thereby resulting in waste of public resources,
- ii. Limited financial resources of the public are dissipated through inflation,
- iii. Deliberate mismanagement,
- iv. Favoritism and Nepotism.

In his paper, he mentioned the following as a way forward in the fight against corruption to encourage and promote integrity hence shun all forms of the corruption tendencies which he summarized as follows:

- Watchdogs for Commission
- Transparency and Accountability
- Willingness to detect and report corruption cases.

He concluded his lecture by advising the students to spend more money to buy good books that will add value to their lives and that they should spend more time

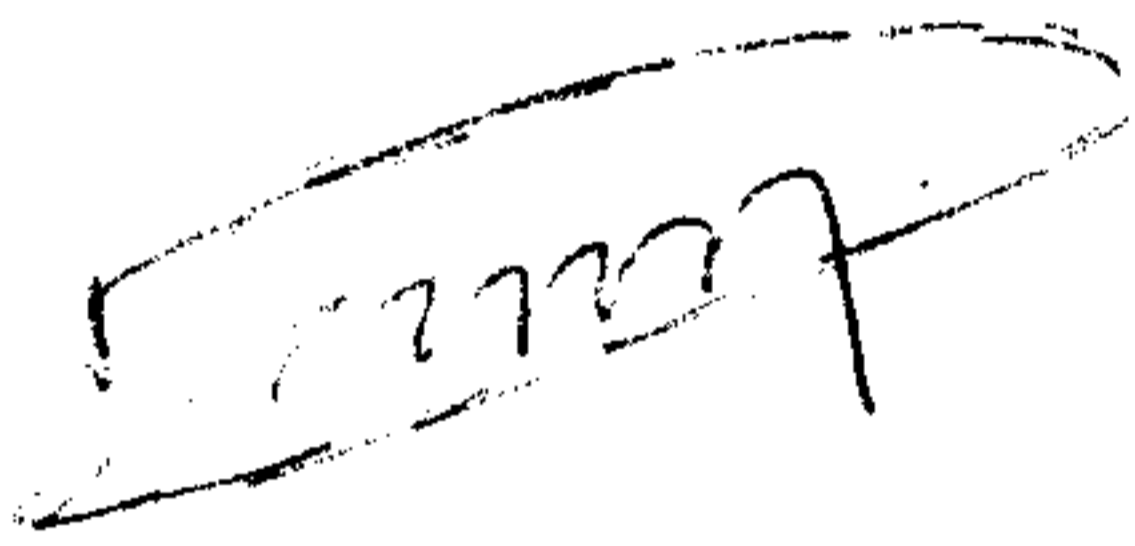
to study and read their books, he therefore appealed to them to stand up against the corruption scourge because no form of corruption is acceptable whether small or large. The questions asked include:

1. Can we say at a glance that we have been able to tackle and fight corruption to the bearest minimum?
2. As an Accountant to be, how can we fight corruption in this country?
3. As an Accounting Student if you see compromise on the job, who can you report to ICPC or ICAN?

Mr. Iroka answered all their questions to their satisfaction while ICPC website, e-mail address and toll free numbers were given to them by Mrs. Omonoyan.

The moderator thanked Mr. Iroka and his team for the wonderful lecture. The second paper was delivered by Mr. Kenneth Okpala, the ICAN representative. The executive members of the NAPAS and ICPC team had a group photograph at the end of the session. The session came to an end at 1:30pm.

Numbers of the students in attendance is 476.



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A.E.O.