

## ***COMMUNIQUE***

### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**THEME: MOBILIZING THE NIGERIAN YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION (NYaC)**

**TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> – THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**AFRICA HALL, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA**

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THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION WAS ORGANIZED BY THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION (ICPC) for Nigerian youths drawn from different parts of the country from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 at the Africa Hall of the International Conference Centre Abuja. Participants at the conference comprised students, youth groups, youth-based NGOs and youth entrepreneurs. The objectives of the conference were to:

- Create a platform for youths all over Nigeria to come together for the purpose of considering their perspectives on corruption as well as discussing how they can be positively engaged in the fight against corruption;
- Engage with youths in order to mould their attitudinal disposition to matters of corruption and the war against the phenomenon; and
- Engage with youths on tackling corruption in those areas particularly associated with them such as cybercrime and digital age corruption with a view to exposing the dangers and re-directing their energies to positive purposes.

**Having received intensive presentations and motivation** from the carefully selected speakers who are role models for youths on various insightful topics;

**Taking cognisance** of the need to fight corruption in our various institutions and spheres of influence;

**Appreciating** the role that we need to play in fighting corruption;

**Conscious** of the fact that the campaign for building integrity and fighting corruption comes with its attendant challenges;

**Acknowledging that** the need to resuscitate the values of integrity and discourage corrupt practices starts with us;

**Determined** to exercise our democratic rights as citizens to participate in decisions and decision-making around the campaign for integrity and the fight against corruption in our country;

**Convinced** that we can promote integrity amongst ourselves and other members of the public;

**Do observe as follows:**

1. That the effects of corruption have given birth to an era of economic and social decay, criminality, widespread poverty and hopelessness in our nation and hence negatively affecting over sixty million Nigerian youths;
2. That youths represent the future of Nigeria; and mobilizing them against corruption through anti-corruption discourse is in line with the statutory function of ICPC as stipulated in Section 6 (e-f) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000;
3. That it is appropriate that Nigerian youths be conversant with the national anti-corruption laws to serve as deterrents against infractions;
4. That the digital age has created channels for corruption for youths through cybercrimes; and there is an urgent need to divert their energies to the positive use of the Internet;
5. That corruption in the education sector is a major impediment to the development of youths;
6. That time is of critical importance to all youths and all Nigerians should endeavour to keep to time and respect time; and
7. That Nigerian youths as "change agents" are important elements that should promote integrity and combat corrupt practices and other related offences.

**The Participants therefore recommend as follows:**

1. That ICPC should institutionalize the National Conference on Youth against Corruption as an annual event and organize more editions of the conference at regional and institutional levels; and that participants at the conferences should be tagged Anti-Corruption Ambassadors who will give i-report feedback to ICPC; and that in organizing such conferences in the future, adequate logistics

- arrangement should be made for all participants' transportation, accommodation and feeding;
2. That ICPC should launch Campus Watchdog Initiatives to establish its presence and help the students fight tertiary institution-related corrupt acts;
  3. That ICPC should monitor the use of bail-out funds given to states, unnecessary increase of school fees by school administrations, police extortion, and other corrupt acts that affect youths;
  4. That the anti-corruption war should be deepened on the Internet and the social media; and the legal framework for fighting cybercrime be strengthened to fight technology-induced corruption;
  5. That ICPC should organize anti-corruption pageants (and other anti-corruption events) to make the war against corruption more youth-friendly;
  6. Government should support ICPC with more funding to enable the agency execute a more intensive fight against corruption;
  7. That the teaching of the National Values Curriculum in schools should be intensified to ensure its widespread implementation across the educational system;
  8. That access to broadband Internet should be considered a human rights issue and be made available to all youths; while the relevant authorities marshal out a comprehensive IT-based career development plan for youths;
  9. That government should address the high tariffs charged by the GSM companies;
  10. That government should monitor the spending of internally generated revenue raised by school authorities;
  11. That religious organizations and institutions should be mobilized to join the crusade against corruption;
  12. That accurate statistics are important and government should establish a unified database for all citizens;
  13. That ICPC should support student-initiated programmes;
  14. The ICPC should reward persons of integrity and those that expose corruption;
  15. ICPC should intensify the fight against corruption by naming and shaming corrupt persons and organizations.

**We, the participants also resolve as follows:**

1. That in our various capacities as students and youth, we will proactively make input into on-going reforms that seek to fight corruption in our respective institutions and the society in general;
2. We shall, where necessary, maximize opportunities to engage in advocacy activities against corruption;
3. We shall assist in sensitising and orienting members of our institutions and communities on the adverse effects of corruption and how they can help prevent and fight it;
4. We shall engage in monitoring of budgets (asking questions) in our institutions and communities;
5. We shall utilize the Internet and the social media and other creative media (cartoons, comics, songs, dances, etc.) to fight corruption in our institutions and spheres of influence.
6. We shall join the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) and become ICPC volunteers against corruption.
7. We shall do our utmost to imbibe positive attitudinal change and the virtues of integrity.
8. We shall send petitions on and reports of corruption to ICPC.

In conclusion, we the participants of the National Conference on Youth against Corruption, with the theme: Mobilizing the Nigerian Youth against Corruption (NYaC), resolve that we shall be ambassadors of anti-corruption and educate and mobilize our peers within our institutions and communities against corruption.

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