



NAVC Newsletter

Publication of the Independent
Corrupt Practices and Other
Related Offences Commission.

Volume 4

Issue 1 December 2011

ICPC arrests top WAEC officials over an alleged exam malpractices

Operatives of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) have arrested some WAEC/GCE supervisors and invigilators in Ogun State for alleged examination malpractices.

The arrest was sequel to the resolve by ICPC to smash the syndicates examination

High School, Ikoto, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, in the course of extorting money from candidates writing the just concluded WAEC/GCE Examinations.

The State Coordinator of NAVC, Mr. Idris Abu, explained that he received a tip-off from students that in their centre, the suspected culprits asked all students to

officials

It was from the marked examination center that the vigilant NAVC reported that the WAEC officials had truly started collecting money from the desperate students, stating that the monies so far collected were wrapped in paper with the names and number of students attached.

The NAVC coordinator



malpractices across Nigeria.

The Commission's whistle blower in Ogun State, the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC), provided information that led to the arrest of WAEC/GCE supervisors and invigilators in Ogun State.

The NAVC, following a tip off, had intercepted a WAEC/GCE supervisor and three invigilators at the Anglican Comprehensive

pay the sum of N500 to get assistance meant to make each of them obtain good results at once this year.

The NAVC coordinator reported that he subsequently directed the Ijebu-Ode NAVC Local Government chapter Coordinator, Otunba Funso Ogunleye, to plant his officers at the suspected Examination Centers to verify the allegation leveled against WAEC/GCE top

further reported that he had to direct his men on the ground to inform ICPC operatives who swung into action. Four of the officials were eventually apprehended.

The four suspects (names withheld) were taken to Ijebu-Ode police station following a directive from the Head of ICPC, Oyo and Ogun state offices, Mr. Olusesan Olukile, an indication that investigation on the issue had begun.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



VOLUNTEER CORPS ARREST MAN
WITH REGISTERED VOTERS' LIST

3



ICPC ARRESTS WOMAN
OVER 419

3

Special Feature

6



ICPC VOLUNTEER
CORPS SET TO RELEASE
FILM ON CORRUPTION

8



PAT UTOMI DECORATED
PATRON OF NAVC

11



ICPC BOSS URGES NIGERIANS
TO SHUN CORRUPTION

12

MISSION

Statement

To provide a formal platform for the participation of all Nigerians, in the promotion, monitoring and enforcement of integrity as the most effective way to fight corruption in Nigeria.

ICPC PROBES LAGOS NURTW, LAMATA

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) is currently probing the activities of some top officials of the Lagos Metropolitan Transport Authority (LAMATA) and the

state chapter of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) over alleged fraud.

A top NURTW official was top on the list, alongside senior officials of the other organizations.

The NURTW official is being investigated for alleged large scale corruption, which borders on the pilfering of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) revenues and other alleged fraudulent activities. He also disclosed that employees of LAMATA,

NURTW and BRT had earlier petitioned the commission alleging large scale embezzlement of funds of the Transport organizations by their top officials.

The Lagos state Chapter of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteers Corps (NAVC) had made preliminary enquiries into the allegations and had established that some acts of corruption were perpetrated mostly in the NURTW-BRT operation in Lagos State, setting the basis for full-scale investigations into the allegations.

Petitioners reported that within a short time, the NURTW official had become so rich that he bought houses in choice areas of Lagos and overseas

and owned a number of petrol stations. The petition reads in part: "He collects BRT funds at will. Family and friends collect LPOs, causing delays in supply of diesel to the operational base and preventing full operations.

"He brings unqualified personnel to handle maintenance of vehicles instead of professionals leading to double maintenance. He buys substandard towing vehicles from friends, thereby causing commotion each time the vehicles breakdown, thus forcing BRT to hire towing vehicles.

National Coordinator of NAVC. Mr. Folu Olamiti confirmed receipt of the petition but declined to make further comments.



NAVC
Newsletter

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editorial Consultant

Folu Olamiti

Editor-in-Chief

Femi Gold

Contributing Editors

Demola Bakare

Mustapha Wala

Clement Obaniyi

Godwin Oche

Veronica Adenekan

Hassan Salihu

Chile Ogwuegbu

Eneji Abrams

NAVC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Secretariat of the National Anticorruption Volunteer Corps, an integrity outreach programme of ICPC.

For further information, please contact

Femi Gold

The Editor-in-Chief on

0802 300 8463 / 0817 300 8463

or Write to:

NAVC National Secretariat ICPC Headquarters,
Plot 802,

Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area

P.M.B 535 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

Website: www.ICPC.gov.ng/NAVC

email: NAVC@icpc.gov.ng

ANTI-CORRUPTION VOLUNTEERS RECOVERS FUNDS, CARS FROM OGUN LGs

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) has launched a probe into series of allegations of financial impropriety leveled against the education authorities in Ijebu East Local government in Ogun State.

Some officials of the local government had petitioned the Commission, calling for the probe of SUBEB in the local government on suspicion that some top officials have been pilfering from the salaries of teachers in the local government. Although the petitioners did not give a figure of money which had allegedly been stolen by the officials in question, findings by ICPC revealed that a total of N2.8 million had been

recovered already following the intervention by the National Anti-Corruption Volunteers Corps (NAVC) in the local government.

The recovered sum, according to the State Co-coordinator of NAVC Mr. Idris Abu, is part of the sum that was alleged to have been fraudulently deducted from salaries of teachers in Ijebu East Local government.

In another development, Mr. Abu said NAVC had swung into action in Ogun State and recovered a Camry Saloon car belonging to Odeda Local government. The vehicle, he said was recovered in December 2010 and an attempt was made in February 2011 to change the registration number.

ICPC ARRESTS WOMAN OVER 419



A middle aged woman, Mrs. Chioma Achor, has been arrested by the independent corrupt practices and other related

offences commission (ICPC) in connection with a case of fraud.

Mrs. Achor was nabbed in Abuja recently on alleged impersonation as she has been parading herself as an Oceanic Bank account officers to dupe unsuspecting victims on advanced fee fraud case otherwise known as 419.

The suspect has been conniving with other suspects based in Abia state to deceive victims into

paying some amounts of money into Achor's account so dedicated to the 419 racket, as the suspects had specialized in hoodwinking victims with phony lucrative contracts ostensibly on electrical projects in the village of President Goodluck in Bayelsa State.

She was arrested in Abuja after her account had been credited with N3 million by a victim who was conned with the phony contract on electrical project in Bayelsa state, and the address on the

account traced to her residence in Gwagwalada.

One of Mrs. Achor's victims, Engineer Ernest Iwu, petitioned members of National Anti-corruption volunteers Corps (NAVC) detailing the activities of a gang of fraudsters in Aba who had dupe him of undisclosed amounts on the fake electrical project.

Mrs. Achor is said to have made useful statements to ICPC interrogators as anti-graft commission vows to pursue the case to a logical conclusion.

VOLUNTEERS RAISE ALARM OVER MALPRACTICES IN MAY/JUNE EXAMS

Members of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC), has called for more vigilance on the part of the federal and state governments on special centres usually created for the May/June West African School Certificate Examinations (WASCE), saying that such centres were being used to perpetrate malpractices.

The NAVC made the observation in a comprehensive report it made, after monitoring

the just concluded May/June examinations for secondary school students, adding that principals and teachers had been colluding with lazy students, who had perfected the art of cheating during examinations.

Members of NAVC in Ondo State, in their report, noted that teachers and principals usually collect the sum of between N25, 000 and N50, 000 per student, to sit for exams in the special centres.

The NAVC said it made the observations during the period of last examination, which covered both public and private secondary schools in all the 18 local government areas of Ondo state.

In its report, the NAVC said "in our observation, we discovered that most private schools were involved in examination malpractices in all the areas covered. There were cases where principal of a certain school collaborated with teachers to perpetrate this

crime, which is deadly to the posterity of this nation.

"some of these private schools have special rooms or offices where this crime is perfectly being committed. They also allow their students to come into the examination halls with textbooks, cell phones, micro-scripts, photocopies of answers...some of the proprietors, proprietresses and principals of these schools boasted that we should go to the Ministry of Education and that we would meet them there".

NIGERIA RISKS BECOMING A FAILED STATE - ICPC

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has warned of an imminent danger of Nigeria becoming failed state if corruption is not tackled headlong.

Acting Chairman of the ICPC Alhaji Abdulahi Bako gave the warning in Abuja recently when executive members of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) in the

Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) visited him.

Bako said the anti-corruption agencies could not handle corruption, which is endemic, alone. He therefore called on Nigerians to come forward and support anti-corruption agencies in the fight to tame the hydra-headed monster-corruption. The members where at the ICPC headquarters to brief the Acting Chairman on their preparation for the formal launching of NAVC in Abuja soon.

WHISTLE BLOWERS FORCE DOWN KEROSENE PRICE

Anti-corruption whistleblower under the aegis of the national anti-corruption volunteers' corps has clamped down on the illegal activities of filling stations that are hoarding and selling kerosene above approved price of N50 per litre.

Members of NAVC in Ogun state had been going round filling stations in the state capital to ensure that kerosene was sold at the approved price to consumers.

NAVC Coordinator in Ogun State, Mr. Idris Abu told reporters that the clamp down would soon spread to every parts of the state, saying that the members had been

going round filling stations in Abeokuta to monitor and enforce compliance that no filling station should sell the product above the regulated pump price.

NAVC said its members discovered that even the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation mega stations were selling large quantities of kerosene to individuals who then resold to the public at about N150 per litre.

Abu explain that following the intervention of NAVC members, the filling stations had complied with the directive not to sell more than 10 litres at a N50 per litre to any individual at a particular time.

ICPC ARRESTS FOUR FOR IMPERSONATION IN ABIA

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission has smashed a syndicate in Abia State said to be impersonating members of its National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps.

The syndicate was said to have swindled unsuspecting members of the public of large sums of money in Aba, the commercial centre of the state. The suspects are Akpabio Joseph, Tony Ben, Nduka Uju and Jibril Isah.

The suspects were arrested by the agency following an attempt to dupe one Mr. Christian Okoro of N380, 000. One of the impostors was said to have posed as a member of the House of Representatives. The impostors allegedly duped Okoro after promising to assist him to recover N353, 000 from one Obinna Ifejiofor. Ifejiofor was alleged to have collected the money from Okoro after

promising to help his son gain admission to the University of Calabar.

Mr. Okoro had lodged a complaint through NAVC office at Aba North Local Government, whereas one of the impostors approached him while acting as NAVC officials, promising to assist him recover the money.

“In the process, one of the impostors, Akpabio, allegedly demanded N380, 000 from Okoro and subsequently had the sum promptly paid through the account of Isah. The fake legislator claimed to be the Chairman, House Committee on Tertiary Institutions”.

The Police in Aba grilled the four accused persons to determine their complicity in the allegation. After four days of interrogation, the accused persons were said to have been handed over to the ICPC state officer in Owerri, Mr. Ifeanyi Nwigwe, for further investigation.



Photo News



Scene of a Drama Presentation @ Government Girls' Secondary School, Yana, Shira Local Government, Bauchi State



An NAVC/NYSC CDS member in a group photo with officials of Makurdi prison after a Sensitisation programme



NAVC members on anti-computers sensitisation rally in Ondo



Mr Femi Gold and Mr Emeka Edeh NYSC/NAVC CDS Group facilitators addressing corps members of Ekiti State Orientation Camp

VOLUNTEER CORP MEMBER ARREST MAN WITH REGISTERED VOTERS' LIST

Officials of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps, a volunteer force set up by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission have apprehended a party agent

Ogun State Coordinator of NAVC, Mr. Idris Abu, the political party agent could not explain where he got the names and what he planned to do with them.

Abu said, "Because of the sensitivity of the exercise,



Mr Idris Abu, Ogun State Coordinator and Mr Folu Olamiti, National Coordinator NAVC

with a list containing names of already registered voters at Oke Shokori quarters in Abeokuta, Ogun state.

The list caught with the party agent contained 245 names already registered as voters at the Oke Shokori polling Unit. He allegedly got the list from Direct Data Capture Machine. According to the

I mounted my men around registration booths to monitor what is happening so, when I saw the man on the DDC machine writing down things, I knew he was not supposed to be there and people were complaining that they are not being attended to. "So I approached him and asked what he was doing there. He told me nothing but when he saw that I



understood what he was doing and was about to nab him, he ran away. "I seized the exercise book he used in writing down the names and the names were 245, exactly the number of names captured on the machines. "Then I asked the Independent National Electoral Commission's Staff as well as the Civil Defense Corps at the unit why they allowed the man to download information from the DDC machine,

the officials claimed ignorance of what the man was doing".

Abu said he photocopied the exercise book and lodged a report with Resident Electoral Officer for the state, Deacon Martin Ogunfolami. NAVC was set up in 2005 by the ICPC to enlist Nigerians with integrity to contribute as private citizens to the fight against corruption in the country.

ICPC SEEKS SUPPORT FOR ANTI-GRAFT AGENCIES



Alh. Abdullahi Bako
Former Ag. Chairman, ICPC

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has urged Nigerians to co-operate with anti-graft agencies in order to achieve a corruption-free nation.

Acting Chairman of the agency, Alhaji Abdullahi Bako, made the call when members of the Akwa Ibom State chapter of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVCO) paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja. Six professors, three bishops and lawyers

had joined the corps in the state and a courtesy visit was paid to the ICPC headquarters ahead of the body's inauguration.

According to the visitors, Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo, Prof. (Mrs.) Comfort M. Ekpo has thrown her weight

Special Feature

The Spread, achievements and Challenges of National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) Initiative

All over the world, it is an accepted reality that to effectively combat the scourge of corruption, government and anti-graft agencies alike must adopt a combination of several strategies. This realization has been informed by the nature of the phenomenon of corruption. It is a complex and resilient crime that has an amazing ability to defy some of the harshest and punitive measures that may be deployed against it.

Relying solely on catching the corrupt cannot eliminate corruption from any system. Activities that emphasize the need for preventing the occurrence of corruption rather than deterring it therefore become imperative.

Experience of the ICPC in the fight against corruption and the pervasive nature of the crime have led to the realization that only a collective approach through the involvement of all and sundry would stem the tide.

The National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) is therefore the initiative of the former chairman of the commission, Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, to make the struggle against corruption the responsibility of all Nigerians. This implies that every one of us has a duty to fight corruption, to join in the struggle to eliminate corruption, and to rid the polity of this menace which has eaten deep into the fabric of the nation.

The NAVC is thus the avenue through which all and sundry will have the opportunity to say a resounding NO to corruption, irrespective of status, tribe and creed. It signifies a systematic and rigorous partnership with the civil society and the generality of the people not only to ensure public ownership of the crusade, but to also guarantee greater and enduring impact on the populace.

At the official launch of NAVC on the 29th of August, 2007, the then Chairman of ICPC, Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, noted that the NAVC was one of the Commission's initiatives that would involve the entire citizenry in the campaign.

Justice Ayoola also explained further that the Commission believed that anti-corruption movement initiated by the former president Obasanjo at the official level early in his administration would find its fullness in a people-driven movement against corruption which the volunteers corp was designed to be.

Since the launch, over 96,000 Nigerians have enlisted into the NAVC to join the Commission in the fight against corruption. Membership of the corps cut across every strata of the society: individuals and organized groups, such as faith-based and community-based organizations, labour unions and professional bodies.

The Commission is aware of the danger in involving every kind of person in anti-corruption battle. Therefore, the Secretariat screens every application forms and ensures that members are people of integrity and also believe in the philosophy for which the NAVC was initiated. Some notable Nigerians occupying exotic government positions have also enlisted as members; notable among them are Dr. Dora Akunyili, Former Minister of Information and Communications, Former Secretary to the Federal Government of Nigeria, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed and the Executive Governor of Benue State, Mr. Gabriel Suswan.

Though some unscrupulous Nigerians have found their ways into the corps, the secretariat has not shown mercy for any member who went beyond his mandates. The former Ondo State Coordinator has been prosecuted and sentenced to jail term for impersonation; another is presently being prosecuted in Portharcourt for similar offence while two executive members of Lagos chapter has just been released from detention pending the outcome of full investigation into its finances. The two were arrested following an allegation of misappropriation of funds.

Like every other organisation, such people must exist. Even Jesus Christ with only 12 disciples had a traitor and a thief among His disciples. Not everyone joins the NAVC with good intentions, what is important is that management takes appropriate measures to address the situation.

To expand and sustain the anti-corruption crusade, the Commission in 2007 entered into partnership with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). Under the partnership, Corp Members who volunteer to join the National Anti-Corruption



Mr Charles Nwokezie Coordinator, Rivers state NAVC



Excited members of NAVC at the inauguration of Edo state Chapter.



Dr. Ifeanyi Obi receiving NAVC Flag from Hon. member of ICPC, Dame Jalieonum Nwarieku in Akika



Gbenga Akinbobola, Ondo State Coordinator NAVC

Volunteer Corps (NAVC) are enlisted at the orientation camps. They are subsequently trained and posted to local government areas to act as foot soldiers of the commission.

The overall objectives of the collaboration between the two bodies is to exploit the available human resource of Corps Members through NYSC existing structures that provide an effective supervisory mechanism in sensitization and mobilisation of grassroots people against corruption.

At the last count, the NAVC Secretariat has trained over 11,467 NYSC Corps Members who have volunteered to dedicate their one year service to sensitise and mobilise Nigerians against corruption. Through their activities, millions of Nigerians at the grassroots have become more knowledgeable about the consequences of corruption and making commitment to support government efforts by embracing integrity as a second nature.

Beyond that, NAVC Secretariat has also commenced collaboration with other bodies, such as the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS). Man O War organization, religious bodies and Non-governmental organizations (NGO)

Under the umbrella of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), University students from different institutions recently collaborated with the Commission to foster support and to join the crusade against corruption by embarking on sensitization and advocacy rallies. As part of this, the Secretariat has also trained over 120 students of the University of Abuja to coordinate NAVC activities in the campus. They have organized four workshops, in the last two years, to showcase the objectives and relevance of the anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria.

It is noteworthy that since corruption is not restricted to politics or geography, it has gradually found its way in religious institutions, just as it exists in secular society. The church as an icon of honesty and whom people look up to for guidance should ensure that their flocks live exemplary lives free of corrupt practices.

Consequently, the anti-graft agency had initiated processes of collaborating with the church and her leaders. To this effect, the NAVC has inaugurated the chaplaincy chapter in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, aimed at enlisting and mobilizing 'men of God' who wield enormous influence to help the Commission take the message of integrity and honesty to their followers.

For instance, a couple of years ago, a youth organisation known as Ife Youth Vanguard, registered members of NAVC, petitioned the Medical Director of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Council (O.A.U.T.H.C) Ile Ife, demanding immediate and total repairs of equipments and other infrastructures of the institutions. The petition also contained a demand for the immediate repairs of some essential medical equipments among which were the X-Ray machine, C. T scan machine, generator and hospital ambulances to save the lives of the masses that were daily patronizing the hospital. Rather than invite the group for explanation, the then Chief Medical Director went about blackmailing and threatening to deal with the lift technician who volunteered information on some of the missing items.

Further investigation into the activities of the CMD revealed that a whopping sum of N44 million was missing from the hospital's coffer. Consequent upon this, a strong petition was written against him, and a copy sent to federal Ministry of Health in Abuja. Shortly after, the equipments were repaired and still in perfect condition till today.

Another example: two years ago, police officers stationed at a road block in Abia State were extorting money from the driver of a commercial vehicle in which some NAVC members were travelling in. Irked by the action of the unscrupulous law enforcement officers, the anti-corruption whistleblowers disembarked and talked them into refunding the money to the driver and also donating proceeds from extortions from other motorists to orphanage home in Umuahia.

These are typical examples of what the NAVC is established to achieve: demand integrity from public office holders, monitor the level of integrity in society, and embark on mass mobilization for national integrity.

Activities of the corps members have resulted in the formation of NAVC anti-corruption Clubs in over 580 secondary and tertiary institutions around the country; it has also help in generating more awareness for anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria, and aroused passions and commitment in people towards the fight.

Worried by the rapid increase in examination malpractices and wide spread rigging in general elections in the country, the NAVC Secretariat through the states chapters had successfully monitored the conducts of public examinations and elections in Abia, Imo, River, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Cross River, Lagos, Ogun And Jigawa states. This was done in order to help restore sanity and integrity to the conducts of the exercise.

During some of these exercise, NAVC members discovered how candidates

Contd. on page 8



Onitsha South NAVC Coordinator
Supervising Sale of Dwell Fuel Filling Station, Onitsha



President NAVC/NYSC Lafia CDS group,
Olaewe Bamidele Wasu sensitising students



Illela L.G Chairman, O/C Civil Defence, O/C Immigration,
NAVC Co-ordinator Illela and Other NAVC
Members in a group photograph

ICPC TASKS LEADERS ON CORRUPTION ERADICATION

The National Coordinator of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC), Mr. Folu Olamiti, has called on national leaders to put in place measures to effectively combat corruption in the country.

Olamiti made the call at the inauguration of the Federal Capital

Territory (FCT) chapter of the voluntary structure established by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) in Abuja, saying that for corruption to be totally eradicated, the government must have the political will to fight the monster rather than pay lip-service to its eradication.

NAVC CAMPAIGNS AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS

The National anti-corruption Volunteer Corps Recently, in Abeokuta, Ogun State capital embarked on sensitization campaign tagged "Vote out corrupt officials".

The volunteer corps embarked on the four days sensitization towards ensuring credible poll thereby complementing the

efforts of the Independent National Electoral Commission at ensuring free and fair poll.

Speaking during the campaign, the state coordinator, Mr. Idris Kelvin Abu, said the sensitization exercise would cover all the four geographical zones in the state.

ICPC VOLUNTEER CORPS SET TO RELEASE FILM ON CORRUPTION

APPARENTLY worried by the high level of corrupt practices in virtually all facets of the country's economy as well as its impact on its integrity globally, a group identified as the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) Lagos state chapter is set to conduct research on the social malaise.

Its findings, the Nigeria compass gathered, will be compiled into a film entitled 'the National film project' on the theme 'the Efficacies of law'.

NAVC, comprising mainly the middle-aged voluntary members, is an outreach arm of the independent corrupt practices and other related offences commission empowered to holistically assist the agency in

acquiring and disseminating information, monitoring the mass mobilization for national integrity.

Other duties of the volunteer corps include leading the performing national assignment such as national examinations elections and census, among others.

At a short press briefing in Lagos last week, the state Coordinator, Ambassador Akin Badejogbin, explained that "the multi-millionaire project has become necessary to rewrite some wrong impressions about the country through the document and uplift the virtues of some of our leaders.

"I am one of the view privilege Nigeria that have travelled across the length and breadth of the world and I

ICPC SEEKS

behind establishment of NAVC in the University and is as well playing a leading role in the state NAVC affairs.

Bako assure Akwa Ibom NAVC chapter of the agency's support. "The battle against corruption should not be left to anti-corruption agencies alone, credible Nigerians should be part of the fight", adding that he was excited by the caliber of people joining the NAVC.

"There is hope that the monster of corruption is now in trouble. Corruption is not a fight for

Contd. from page 5

one man or two agencies but for everyone, because when you wage war against the corrupt, the corrupt fight back," he added.

Briefing Bako, Elder Alozie Umesi, leader of the NAVC team said many upright Nigerians who are members of organized groups have signaled their intention to join the volunteers to wage war against corruption. He lamented the prevalence of corrupt practices in the state, but said he was confidential that the intervention of members would reduce the rate at which people pilfer public funds.

The Spread, achievements... *Contd. from page 8*

with the connivance of some teachers, principal and proprietress used telephone sets and other devices in examination malpractices.

Reports by one of the states coordinator recently led to the arrest and detention of a school principal for alleged involvement in exams malpractices. Further investigation on the case is still ongoing.

Plans are underway to extend monitoring duties of the corps to every state. In pursuit of this, NAVC Secretariat has initiated and in fact written to WAEC, NECO and JAMB for possible collaboration in this regard. No doubt, the nation's education sector needs urgent attention. Deployment of NAVC members to examination centres will complement efforts of educational bodies to restore sanity to the system.

The NAVC initiative is indeed a brilliant strategy that would bring about positive change in the society. There is a sense in bringing about social change. Besides making everyone an anti-corruption vanguard, NAVC gives the people the rare opportunity of performing an important task of Changing attitudes and behaviours. No doubt, this is difficult to achieve. It takes someone with a passion to want to spend his time and other personal resources to bring about a change in society.

Apart from making public servants to render account of their stewardship, NAVC impact is already been felt in local councils, states and in MDA's. The number of petitions received by the Commission have been on the increase. The mere mention of individual as an anti-corruption volunteer in some establishments sends shiver down the spines of corrupt officials.

Without doubt, the anti-corruption crusade being led by the ICPC is yielding positive results and impression on the attitude of Nigerians, as corrupt people now think twice before committing any corrupt act. In spite of this, NAVC and other integrity outreach programmes of the ICPC face some challenges. A major challenge is how to get the political understand the preventative strategies and give the Commission the necessary encouragement through increased budgetary allocations. The Commission is presently underfunded to be able to fulfill its education and public enlightenment mandates. The result is that the Commission is unable to provide adequate IEC materials and funds for NAVC projects that would help change the mind-sets of Nigerians. Consequently, it is incumbent on all Nigerians to prevail on their representatives in the National Assembly to increase the budgetary allocation to the Commission as a way of enabling the agency to perform its mandates.

To ensure that corps members are able to meet these challenges, the European Union (EU), through Support to Reforming Institutions Programme (SRIP), last year, organized a workshop for thirty NAVC Coordinators in six states. Specifically, the training was designed to provide the Corps Coordinators with skills on volunteerism, advocacy and communication, budget and public expenditure tracking, monitoring and evaluation, petition writing and whistle blowing techniques, among others.

One obvious achievement of the training was the enhancement of volunteerism skills of participants in good governance and anti-corruption crusade at both state and local levels. This was evidenced from the participants' comments in the post-workshop assessment sheet at the end of the four days training and also when compared with the initial expectation of the participants from the workshop.

Participants also gained a deeper understanding of good governance as it relates to anti-corruption and the role of NAVC in the fight against corruption. The workshop was able to stir up the spirit of patriotism among the NAVC members and enthusiasm to serve their fatherland in enthroning good governance and selfless services.

A desire to contribute to society underlies the commitment to volunteer work. It is not a paid service; therefore it requires those with determination and passion to effect a change in society to commit their time and personal resources to fighting corruption. There is joy in giving something back to a community in which you

WHY NIGERIA IS NOT WINNING ANTI-CORRUPTION WAR, BY ICPC

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has admitted that the anti-corruption campaign in the past years merely barked at corrupt practices and perpetrator but failed to bite because it was solely government-drive.

The Commission noted that collective efforts of government and private individuals would be needed for genuine results to manifest in the crusade against graft and corruption.

Speaking through Mr. Folu Olamiti, the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) the ICPC said every Nigeria should be enlightened to see corruption and related vices as anathema.

Olamiti spoke in Abeokuta the Ogun state capital while flagging off a radio campaign tagged. Corruption must go.



Mr Folu Olamiti
National Coordinator, NAVC

He said a situation where the battle against corruption is seen as government business alone is not "good for the sustainability" of the commission's agenda against the social malaise.

He said one of the reasons why past anti-corruption effort failed is that they had been largely

government driven.

At this point, there is the need to work on the psyche of the people to see corruption as an anathema."

Olamiti urged credible Nigeria to join forces with NAVC, saying that its membership is open to all Nigeria who are painted by the disturbing trend in corruption and

other related devices.

Olamiti noted the need for everyone to be vigilant and said it was the only way corrupt practices could be eradicated.

He said that the initiative was in line with the NAVC mandate as contained in the act 2000 section 6(f) which is to educate the public on and against bribery, corruption and other offences.

I am happy that the NAVC in Ogun is steadily the fulfilling one of the ICPC initiating mechanism against corruption" he remarked.

Also speaking coordinator of NAVC in Ogun Mr. Idris Abu, expressed the optimism that corruption would be a thing of the past by the time more Nigeria join the crusade pointing out that the media campaign against the scourge was aimed at renewing vigilance in the prevention of corruption."

ICPC BOSS WANTS NIGERIA TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION

The acting Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Alh. Bako Abdullahi has urged patriotic Nigerians to brace up in support of anti-corruption agencies in their fight against corruption.

This he said would go along way to support president Goodluck Jonathan's affirmative statement and candid resolve to honestly and effectively fight corruption.

He made this call in Ilorin at inauguration of the Kwara State

chapter of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) recently.

Speaking through Mr. Folu Olamiti, the NAVC National Coordinator, Bako said the NAVC an initiative of ICPC had provided a platform for all Nigeria of integrity to voluntarily participate in the anti-corruption crusade.

He lamented that "it is evident that the destructive effects of corrupt practices have been of unlimited proportion and

dimension, which portend imminent danger to both social and national security.

He noted that the "act of terrorism arson attack on individual, youth restiveness and related crimes are the negative spillover effects of corruption.

Bako said Nigerians should put a lie to the United States intelligence report that identified "perverse corruption" as one of the factors that could lead Nigeria to a failed state in 2015.

"it is evident that the destructive effects of corrupt practices have been of unlimited proportion and dimension,

ICPC VOLUNTEER *Contd. from page 6*

know how shabbily Nigeria tourists are treated at every point. We were always screened like dogs and unfairly subjected to all kinds of humiliations at the sight of the green passport."

Badejogbin explained that the project/film would be acted in seven different countries of the

world, beginning from Nigeria, "and it will focus on the consequences of giving or accepting gratification by an official through an agent making corrupt demands, fraudulent acquisitions and receipt of property or deliberately frustration of investigation by the commission."

The second segment

according to him will take the group to the republic of Benin and it will be focused on the consequences of making false statements or returns in respect of money or property and bribery of public officers in relation to voting or performance of duty.

From there, the troupe will move to Togo and Ghana and the segment will focus on the consequences of anybody using

his or her office or position to gratify or confer unfair advantage on himself or herself bribery regarding auction inflation of the price of goods and services award of contract and failure to report bribery.

And finally, the troupe will move to South Africa and the United Kingdom to complete the task of image laundry.

NYSC/NAVC LAFIA FIGHTS CORRUPTION THROUGH PUBLIC LECTURE

The youths of today are proving beyond doubt that they are using everything within their means to war against corruption for a better Nigeria. This zeal by our future leaders for a corrupt-free Nigeria was made evident in Lafia Nasarawa State recently when the immediate set of Batch C Corps members led by its NYSC/NAVC President; Adedeji Ayodeji, organized a Public Lecture titled: *Democratic Consolation and the Role of Anti-Graft Agencies - Problems, Prospects and Challenges*.

The ICPC Acting Chairman, Barrister Bako Abdullahi was represented at the occasion by Mr. Godwin Oche of the Planning, Research and Review; ICPC Headquarters, Abuja. In his remarks, the ICPC Acting Chairman stated that President Goodluck Jonathan's affirmative statements and candid resolve to honestly and effectively fight corruption and other related offences must be backed up by the participation of committed and patriotic Nigerians through the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC).

Mr. Hassan Saliu, a member of NAVC working Group also gave words of encouragement to the participants at the occasion noted that the ICPC will continue to support activities

of Nigerian Youths geared towards the Commission's mandate.

In his well articulated paper titled: *Democratic Consolation and the Role of Anti-Graft Agencies - Problems, Prospects and Challenges*, Dr. Barnabas Anger of the Political Science Department, Benue State University; Markurdi enumerated the magnitude of corruption in the polity and gave recommendations for rooting out corruption in Nigeria.

Dr. Anger asserted that apart from its social, psychological and economic implications, corruption also threatens political stability, democracy and good governance. He traced the genesis of corruption in Nigeria to the colonial experience of the country adding that Nigeria at independence inherited a colonial state that was weak and could hardly perform the essential functions of the state of ensuring law and order thereby establishing the enabling environment for the tapping of natural resources in order to cater for the material and social life of the generality of the people.

Overall, Dr. Anger opined that a change of orientation and attitudes of Nigerian citizens from individualism to best practices of accountability, transparency and probity in the conduct of both private and public affairs is needful.

In his speech, the NYSC/NAVC Nasarawa State outgoing President, Mr. Adedeji Ayodeji noted that the war against corruption is a war for all because corruption pervades every area of our national life. He called on all Nigerians to make spirited efforts to secure the future of the nation by ensuring to speak against the cankerworm wherever it rears its ugly head.

The Chief Judge of Nasarawa State Justice Badamosi Maina who was represented at the occasion by Barrister Daniel Danlami Adek noted that the judiciary will continue to give its support to anti-graft agencies in the country since it is an instrument of interpreting the law of the land as enshrined in the constitution.

The Nasarawa State NYSC Coordinator, Mr. Steven Alabi was represented by Mr. Badmus Gbenga. Mr. Gbenga observed that the role of youths in the fight against corruption cannot be over-emphasized and so the NYSC will continue to support Corp members and relevant government agencies in warring against corruption.

Admonishing the participants, the Resident Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission

President Goodluck Jonathan's affirmative statements and candid resolve to honestly and effectively fight corruption and other related offences must be backed up by the participation of committed and patriotic Nigerians through the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC).

Barrister Bako Abdullahi
The ICPC Acting Chairman,

(INEC); Nasarawa State, Alhaji Ahamad who was represented at the occasion by Mr. Abedoh Musa noted that Nigerians should not keep pointing at corrupt individuals but go a step further by dealing with its tendencies in each and every individual life. He said we should examine ourselves as individuals even as we continue to pinpoint corrupt individuals in our society.

The representative of the Chief Judge of Nasarawa State later administered oath of allegiance on all the new members of the Nasarawa State Anti-Corruption Club after the award of certificates to the various invited schools.

PAT UTOMI DECORATED PATRON OF NAVC



Erudite Professor of Finance, Business Management and Director of the Lagos Business School, Professor Patrick Utomi has been decorated Patron of the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corp (NAVC), by the Lagos Chapter of the Volunteer Corp.

Speaking recently at CMD Shangisha, Lagos during the 1 day election Sensitization Programme against rigging put

together by volunteers Against Rigging and Multiple Voting (VARM) in conjunction with the NAVC Lagos State

"...Nigeria has to rise from the ashes of corruption in a new birth of integrity because righteousness exalts a nation"

chapter, Professor Utomi decried the seeming docility of Nigerian youths in the face of large scale corruption against

our collective dreams and aspiration.

In his speech titled "The Youth Must Rise Against Corruption to Retrieve their Future from the jaws of Death" Utomi paid tribute to the youth of Tunisia and Egypt for their courage in holding their leaders accountable and demanding for change. He wondered why in the face of massive youth unemployment, massive and mindless

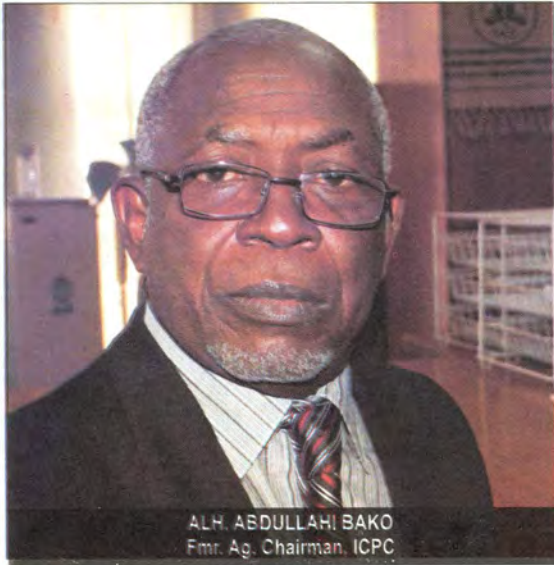
display of wealth by public officials occasioned by massive corruption, the streets are not overflowing with angry young protesters in Nigeria. He challenged the youth to confront corruption in the country by demanding explanation for why the huge foreign reserves have disappeared with no improvement in infrastructure or quality of life of citizens.

In accepting his decoration as Patron of the NAVC, Professor Utomi praised the National Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corp for its strides so far in the struggle to create a better Nigeria. He pledged to make himself available to both the NAVC and VARM in the discharge of his duties as patron. He urged all involved in the Anti-Corruption Crusade to walk the talk saying "that Nigeria has to rise from the ashes of corruption in a new birth of integrity because righteousness exalts a nation"

Shortly before Utomi's decoration, Mr. Sampson Iroka who represented the State Head, of the ICPC, had in an address thanked Professor Utomi for accepting to serve as patron of the NAVC, saying that the NAVC and indeed the Nation stands to benefit greatly from Professor Utomi's wealth of experience, contacts and knowledge. Mr Iroka explained the role played by Patrons of NAVC in line with the NAVC's standing order.

Mr. Iroka and the State Co-ordinator of NAVC, Ambassador Akin Gbadejogbin thereafter decorated Professor Utomi.

ICPC BOSS URGES NIGERIANS TO SHUN CORRUPTION



ALH. ABDULLAHI BAKO
Fmr. Ag. Chairman, ICPC

Alh. Abdullahi Bako, The Former Acting Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related

urged Nigerians to assist the law enforcement agents in the fight against corruption, saying that without their assistance and cooperation,

Offence Commission (ICPC), has urged Nigerians to shun corruption in all its ramifications and live above board by demonstrating exemplary conduct.

The ICPC boss also urged Nigerians to assist the law enforcement agents in the fight against corruption, saying that without their assistance and cooperation,

the security agencies and anti-corruption agencies would not achieve much in the anti-corruption crusade.

Bako, who was represented by Mr. Obaniyi Adebayo, a senior officer of ICPC during the inauguration of 120 members of Onitsha North and South Local Government Chapters of National Anti-Corruption volunteer Corps (NAVC) recently, noted that the task of fighting corruption was herculean since it is endemic in the society.

“Your conduct must not only be exemplary; free from corruption, but must be transparent for everyone to see. It will be dangerous for any member of NAVC to be caught in any corrupt act,

people must learn positive thing from you. You must live and abide by the oath you are taking today and must show that you are true ambassadors of the Corps both in your private and public lives” said Bako.

He warned the new members of NAVC that ICPC would not fail to prosecute any of them who turn around to aid corruption or corrupt people in the society, urging them to avail the Commission of any information on corrupt activities

Dr. Ifeanyi Obi, Anambra Coordinator of NAVC said the state would continue to recruit more men and women of integrity into the Corps as well as assist the Commission with citizens of the state with proven integrity.

