

CACOL LETTER ON ALLEGATION OF CORRUPTION AGAINST SEC DG

ALLEGATION OF CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF OFFICE AGAINST THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, SEC, MR MOURNIR HALIRU GWARZO

Saturday, 4 November, 2017

The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja, FCT

Rt. Hon Speaker,

ALLEGATION OF CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF OFFICE AGAINST THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, SEC, MR MOURNIR HALIRU GWARZO

The attention of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has been drawn to a large scale abuse of office and gross official recklessness of the Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, Mr Mournir Haliru Gwarzo, who by our findings, have engaged in series of anti-establishment manipulations to enrich himself through acts that are at variance with civil service rules and regulations.

Our organisation, the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, is an aggregate of human rights, community based and civil society organisations and individuals with anti-corruption and openness in governance agenda across Nigeria. It is a non-political, non-religious, non-sectional and non-profit making organisation.

We set for ourselves the tasks of promoting accountability, openness in governance and using any available means to cause relevant authorities to probe and bring to book, corrupt leaders both in public and private institutions.

We also strive to protect interest of persons or groups found to be victims or potential victims of corrupt practices or processes of manipulation and violation of human rights. The decision to embark on the journey was taken in 2007 in view of the need to confront, once and for all, the monster that is ravaging all facets of our national life in Nigeria – CORRUPTION.

It is in view of our commitment to the fight against corruption that we present the perceived official excesses and acts of corruption perpetrated by Mr Mournir Haliru Gwarzo before you.

The Issues:
On January 2, 2013, Mr Mournir Haliru Gwarzo, was appointed an Executive Commissioner in the Securities and Exchange Commission for a four year tenure by the then administration of President Goodluck Jonathan. Before the expiration of the four year deal, Gwarzo was elevated by same government as the Director General of the Commission on May 22, 2015.

But consequent upon resumption of office as the Director General of SEC, Mr Gwarzo, ordered the payment of a severance benefit to himself to the tune of N104,851,154.94 (One hundred and four million, eight hundred and fifty one thousand, one hundred and fifty four naira and ninety-four kobo.

We view this development as total disregard to the standing rule in the civil service that states that severance benefit can only be paid to an employee who has concluded his or her service and has completely disengaged from service and not to an employee who has been promoted within the Commission as is in the case of Mr Gwarzo.

CACOL will also want you to look into the allegations of illegal creation of wealth from SEC by Mr Gwarzo.

It is alleged that Mr Haliru Gwarzo runs SEC as his personal estate and appointed companies with links to him and some of his rookies in office to carry out transactions and provide services to the Commission.

Some of the Companies listed to have links with Mr Gwarzo are:

1. Outbound Investment Ltd, RC NO. 807317
2. Medusa Investments Limited, RC NO. 326829
3. Northwind Environmental Services, REG NO BN2389176
4. Micro- Technologies LTD RC NO. 173805
5. Tida International Ltd RC NO. 26414
6. Outlook Communications
7. Acromac Nig Ltd RC NO. 10687864
8. Balfort International Investment Ltd RC NO. 109153
9. Interactiven Worldwide Nig Ltd RC NO. 779442


We make bold to say that the personal interest of Mr Gwarzo in the above listed companies clearly contravenes the provisions of Nigerian law which distinctively prohibits public officers from putting themselves in situations where their personal interest conflicts with their public duties

It is in view of these noted discrepancies that we urge you to institute a committee to beam searchlights on the activities of Mr Mournir Haliru Gwarzo’s as the Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Herewith attached are some of the documents at our disposal wherefrom the above-enumerated issues were teased out. We are, however, at your service to provide more documents that may be necessary to facilitate a prompt delivery on your investigation at any point we are called upon for such assistance.

Please accept our esteemed regards as we look forward to your decisive intervention in unearthing the issues raised here with strict compliance with the rule of law

Yours in the service of humanity


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The Chairman, House Committee on Capital Market
The Chairman, Senate Committee on Capital Market
The Executive Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC
The Executive Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission, ICPC
The Chairman, Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption, PACAC
The Commissioner Of Police, Special Fraud Unit, SFU

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) was established in August 2007 to exert pressures on anti-graft agencies to investigate and prosecute known corrupt leaders in Nigeria. CACOL also undertakes to sensitize Nigerians to Name, Nail, Shame and Shun Corrupt Leaders Anywhere, Everywhere to serve as deterrent that corruption does not pay. CACOL is primarily funded by affiliate and individual members but also seeks support from public-spirited individuals, corporate bodies and donor agencies. This DIGEST is supported by First Faculty Ventures - an organizational development consultancy firm. For further information contact: The Executive Chairman, CACOL, The Humanity Center, 610 Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, Ijaye-Ojokoro, Lagos, Nigeria. Phone: 01-4736534, 07082147742, 08141121208, E-mail: cacolc@yahoo.com, cacol@thehumanitycentre.com, Website: www.corruptionwatchng.com, www.cacol.thehumanitycentre.com. Editor: Wale Salami



Name, Nail, Shame and Shun Corrupt Leaders Anywhere, Everywhere

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The Trial Of Senator Saraki: Resign Now Mr. Senate President

The Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka scripted “The Trials of Brother Jero”, the immaculate one with more tricky and deceptive maneuvers than can be imagined, tempted not by anybody but only by himself. This sums up the on-going drama in our political landscape. The court of appeal has ordered that the code of conduct tribunal can entertain the case of false declaration of assets against the Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki.

Earlier, the Code of Conduct Bureau has dragged the Senator to the Tribunal on allegations of false declaration of properties while he was Governor of Kwara State and at resumption of office as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Bureau laid an eighteen count charges against the Senator. However, the Tribunal in its judgment in June acquitted the Senate President which was challenged by the Bureau at the Court of Appeal. The decision at the appellate court that the Senator has a case to answer on count numbered 4, 5 and 6 is not only worthy of commendation but it is instructive to all public office holders who usually declare false assets and sometimes forget properties they own by proxy.

Senate President, Bukola Saraki

We, at the **Center for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, (CACOL)** strongly condemn every attempt to arm twist the judiciary particularly the courts which are supposed to be the last hope of the nation. It would be recalled that the trial at the Code of Conduct Tribunal was characterized by ploys to stampede the Tribunal with solidarity mobilization of members of the Senate to proceedings which invariably intimidated the Tribunal into taking its political judgment. The decision of the Court of Appeal is a resounding reminder that the judiciary is still independent and can assert the law irrespective of whose ox is gored. Though the Senate President has signified intentions to appeal at the Supreme Court, we hope the path of justice would neither be muddled nor delayed by this process. For it is not common sensical for a judgment to

come after the tenure of the Senate President has expired.

Nigerians know how cases drag on for years in our court system. CACOL demands that if the Senate President intends challenging the Appeal Court decision, he should first resign as the President of Senate. As a matter of fact under refined democratic rule in comparism to the crude democracy in Nigeria, even the appearance of the Dr. Bukola Saraki at the Code of Conduct Tribunal would have warranted his stepping aside.



CACOL warns the judiciary to be wary of those who engage in technicalities to divert the smooth sail of justice. The defence that the prosecution did not proofthat Dr. Saraki operates a foreign account with American Express Service Europe Limited merely goes a long way to vindicate our position about systemic conspiracies. It is a trite fact that most Banks that serve as warehouse for laundering ill-gotten wealth would always hide under the veil of confidentialities not to reveal indicting documents. CACOL call on global leaders and well-meaning people to rise up to the challenge of piercing the invincible corporate veil whenever corruption charges are at stake.

It is instructive that the prosecution team should diligently appraise the recently

released Panama Papers where the Senate

President was exposed to have maintained a foreign account in a tax haven country. An account which obviously was not declared in any of the Asset Declaration Forms.

The narratives of economic sabotage committed by people in public office are legendary and this is done with impunity, believing that the system can never catch up with them. The Senate President's family has a robust history in this regard, the collapse of defunct Societe Generale Bank is a vintage example. The Code of Conduct Bureau should re-examine the papers of all public office holders because we are confident that Dr. Bukola Saraki is just a symbolic representation of a pervasive offence by most if not all public office holders.

“We Must Block The Rat Holes To Illegal Migrant's Routes”

The plights of hapless Nigerian citizens seeking any means of survival outside should be a major concern to all conscientious and well-meaning Nigerians if we are ever going to take more than tottering steps on our desire for holistic developmental plights. The various media reports of organized sale of infants who sometimes were forcefully abducted from their mothers as was the case of two women in Enugu State who the State Governor had to compensate with a cash donation of Five Hundred Thousand Naira each (N500,000:00). Many were deported after tortuous, abusive journey across desert to the boarders of Libya in order to cross the Mediterranean to other climes for greener pastures. According to a recent brief by the National Emergency Agency, NEMA, Libya deported Nine Hundred and Seventy Five Nigerians within five weeks albeit with the assistance of an International Organisation for Migration.

The media is awashed today with the tragic news of Twenty Nigerian young ladies between the ages of 14 and 18 reportedly found dead in a Spanish warship, Cantabria in the Italian coast of Salerno, cruelly packaged like canned foods in a refrigerated section of the warship. They were part of group of Three Hundred and Seventy Five illegal migrants from Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan, Senegal and The

Gambia who have paid some thousands of dollars as well as in kind to a notorious international syndicate of traffickers. A country that suffers from continuous hemorrhage of her young blood and hands would be left far behind in the comity of civilized and developed nations. This is true for nations at war ditto for those in servitude. The gross under-development of the African continent by the effects of over Five Hundred years of slave trade is fresh enough to serve as gory reminder. The perennial brain drain, massive illegal migration to Europe, America even the Green Lottery of the United States of America are striking examples of contemporary 21st Century slavery and recolonisation of the mentality of the peoples of African continent.

The failure of leadership and governance institutions in Nigeria in particular and most African countries are clearly indictable for this retrogressive development. They are forced by the social pressure of abject poverty, ignorance, hunger, unemployment, high cost of living, insecurities and absolute lack of basic necessities of life to embark on this dangerous adventure of digging holes to connect the illegal migration routes to either make it alive or return in dead without a casket. This is a malaise that has grown and acerbated over years

with the sporadic growth of millions of young persons without shelter, unemployed or under-employed due to a fostered policy of de-industrialisation, economic strangulation and atomization of the family unit without any concise positive policy planning for the future. campaigns of these parastatals and others would have to engage the civil platforms including parents, community and faith based organisations, educational institutions as well as other stakeholders. If the system works, the people are aware and enforcement agencies fish out the trafficking syndicates, this persistent sacrifice of our people into the



The most unnerving trauma is the stupendous amassing or crude accumulation of wealth by a few privileged elites who have constructed a strong iron wedge-bar on the social ladder for the poor and socially alienated majority to climb even to the surface of the poverty datum pit of hell. It is trite to start narrating that the main cause of this situation is the blossoming of unbridled corruption and illicit activities by the affluent few, who flaunt their ill-gotten wealth without any concern for the disposed. This is further compounded by the Government refusal to initiate social welfare schemes for the disadvantaged citizens. embrace of illegal immigrant disasters can be highly mitigated if not totally eliminated.

As much as we recognize and commend the efforts of National Agency for Prohibition Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) and National Emergency Agency (NEMA), these organisations are still severally handicapped and their scope of operations need to be thoroughly reviewed. A lot of the preventive

It would be recalled that the EFCC had frozen four out of the five bank accounts opened with Skye Bank.

The accounts were frozen by the EFCC while investigating a former presidential aide, Waripamowei Dudufa over allegations of money laundering.

It would also be recalled that the former First Lady had inaugurated the hotel, known as Aridolf Resort Wellness and Spa, Yenagoa, in April 2015.

The hotel is reputed to be of world standard and capable of competing with other luxury hotels in other parts of the world.

“Nigeria cannot afford to be ICT late arriver – CACOL Sounds a note of caution on NITDA”

Information is Power, Superior Information is Superior Power

Our Organisation, the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL finds it not just funny but equally pathetically distasteful that in global village witnessing rapid contraction of space and time due to high frequency of information networking, our country's policy handlers are generally ambivalent on the dire need to junction into the information communication highways. This is the apprehensive conclusion that any informed, patriotic and progressive minded person would reach on the feud between the Minister of Communication, Mr. Adebayo Shittu and the Director General of National Information and Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Dr. Issa Ibrahim over the agency's award of contract in 2017.

The Minister claims that he received a petition from a Kaduna based Non-Governmental Organisation alleging that the Director General, without following due process as stipulated in the Procurement Act, awarded the agency 2017 contract a firm, Galaxy Backbone and he is subsequently maneuvering to arm twist the Bureau of Public Procurement for a Certificate of No Objection while there are waves of objections. Dr. Ibrahim on the other hand read the manifest machinations of mischief-makers who are either ignorant of the procurement process or are simply bitter losers. Whichever side may be correct, the matter is now before the anti-corruption agency, EFCC and the prospect of delay in the execution of the ICT 2017 contract is very strife.

This is rather worrisome because of the importance of the information and communication technology derivatives in driving both ailing public, private, formal and informal sectors. A viable ICT national framework is a veritable instrument in creating graduate employment, self-entrepreneurship, market expansion, research, growth and planning for sustainable development. However, with the swords

corruption Damocles hovering menacingly over the sector, Nigerians must braze up to be not only “late comers” but “bench warmers” in the developmental potentials of info-age.

As we at CACOL have always championed, corruption is a cancerous ailment with devastating consequences on the afflicted, which holds back the developmental strides of any nation and must be combated with fiery force. We have no iota of doubt that all is not well in the NITDA and the root causative factor is not far from dark-night sleaze and corrupt, insider abuse trading for selfish aggrandizement at the expense of common, over-pauperized Nigerians.

In contemporary global society, superior information and sound technology rules the world. There are myriads of examples in recent history to draw from; the Middle East wars, the war against terrorism, drugs, human trafficking and money laundering are just a few. This is without mentioning of its critical importance research, power, aviation, re-energising our local industries from its state of comatose etc. For instance, recently, some States in the country reported incidences of deaths from snake bites, yet, the late Director General of NAFDAC and Minister, Dr. Akunyili conducted her doctoral thesis in pharmacy on a herb from some shrub in a State in the South East, which produces effective antidote against several deadly snake bites, the drug was produced in the United States, this can easily be produced in the country if we have gotten our act together on the industrialisation of the country.

We call on the President in sync with his anti-corruption mantra to quickly intervene in this stinking situation in the NITDA with a firm focus to clear the Augean stable. In the same veins, relevant anti-corruption agencies, the National Assembly should expedite action to nail any indictable so that our great country would be denied the opportunity to tap into the vast reservoir of information and communication technology advancement necessary for our industrial take off. We strongly believe that an opportunity delayed, (particularly



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President Buhari should Stop EFCC and DSS from Tearing each other's jungular

these bodies from these idiosyncrasies and civilinised, constitutionalised and democratized their operations.

It is a trite fact that the EFCC and DSS are creation of laws and should be accordingly guarded without this menace of inter-agency clashes. The EFCC, like its sister organizations Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), was established by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and deriving further legal sinew from the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), African Union Convention on Preventing and combating Corruption, ECOWAS Protocol on Corruption, UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The DSS on the other hand, though as an intelligence organization, there are various enactments, Instruments and protocols given it powers and regulating its operations, mechanism and jurisdictional

demarcation.

Thus under normal and abnormal circumstances, there should not be any valid reasons for the two agencies to have jurisdictional clashes. These agencies are supposed to work together, their operations are meant to be complementary not contentious and antagonistic. We are clear that there breaches by the parties leading to this clashes which must be quickly probed by the Presidency and stopped immediately.

CACOL calls on Mr. President to urgently call the pointsmen of the two organizations to order before the tear eachothers' jungular and shred into dirty pieces this administration's commitment to prosecute without resting the campaigns to eliminate corruption from our national psyche and menu.

The civil society group, in a statement signed by its acting Media Officer, said on Tuesday that was only a nt Secretary in State at a time, that the wife of ex-G o o d l u c k must be made to the source of her



Patience Jonathan, Former First Lady

Patience Permane Bayelsa insisting President Jonathan explain wealth.

Executive CACOL, t h e Economi Crimes E F C C , petition questioning.

Quoting the e Chairman of Debo Adeniran, statement said the c and Financial Commission, needed no further to invite Patience for

According to the group, apart from explaining how she made the money to build the world-class hotel, CACOL said Mrs. Jonathan must also tell Nigerians the source of the \$20m found in five bank accounts linked to her.

Temporary ban On VIOs on Lagos Roads; timely and relieving – CACOL

Mr. Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of the *Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL* has hailed the ban placed on Vehicle Inspection Officers, VIOs on Lagos state roads until further notice by Governor Akinwunmi Ambode.

Media reports on Tuesday had that the Governor of Lagos state had ordered Vehicle Inspection Officers to leave Lagos roads. This was said to be as a result of the public outcry of Lagosians who had been subjected to gross violation of rights and extortions of different kinds by overzealous and unruly officers of the Inspectorate.

The Chairman of CACOL said “we see this step as one that has long been overdue given that the nefarious and extortionist acts of most of the VIOs had been perpetrated on roads for a very long time with government not taking action. They had been frustrating road users and given nightmares on the roads of Lagos”

“They totally, and deliberately too, veer off what constitute their core duties to pursue what is not their within beat. The Inspectorate was established to basically ensure that vehicles are road worthy, but they impound vehicles; harass and extort innocent Lagosians over driving licenses, traffic offenses, seat-belts, tax clearance, LISRA and a whole lot of superfluous issues. They choose any reason they feel is most plausible bare their corruption infected fangs on their victims.”

“The VIOs however are not alone in this; almost all other security and paramilitary

agencies, the Police, LASTMA, FRSC, NCS are involved in this corrupt pattern where hapless citizens are brazenly extorted with their rights violated. Most of the officers of these agencies do not carry out their duties for the sake for which they were created because they are constantly motivated by extortionist tendencies.”

“We therefore commend the Governor for taking this bold step. We also agree like the administration has stated that the removal of the officers from the state's roads should be temporary so as to reposition the whole outfit.”

Adeniran said “the governor has definitely scored another good one with this. He must ensure the ban is enforced so that the relief he seeks to bring to

Lagosians via the move will not be unachievable. We call on him to also look into the activities of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA officers and Task Force Squads set-p by the state government with a view of sanitizing them. There must be training and re-training for all these officers on the best practices as far as their duties are concerned and respect for human rights of citizens.”

Media had reported that Ambode told the VIOs to leave the roads and go on compulsory retraining on the use of modern technology in order to be humane in dealing with the public.' adding that the VIOs would be back on the road soon.



CACOL Lauds CCT's effort to seize Saraki, Judge alleged undeclared assets

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has commended the move by the Code of Conduct Tribunal, CCT to seize the alleged undeclared assets by the Senate President, Bukola Saraki, and Justice Sylvester Ngwuta of the Supreme Court.

According to media reports, the Senate President is being prosecuted by the Federal Government before the CCT on 18 counts bordering majorly on false assets declaration and other encroachments. Some of Saraki's properties which are the subject of the charges preferred against him are located at 15, 17, 17A and 17B McDonald Street, Ikoyi, Lagos. Others are located at Plots 2481 and 2482 Cadastral Zone A06, Maitama, Abuja. He is also accused of obtaining a N375m loan from Guaranty Trust Bank Plc on February 11, 2010, which was reported that he used to purchase property in London. The Senate President was said to have failed to declare the London property.

On the other hand, Justice Ngwuta was charged on eight counts before the



CCT on April 20 this year, properties, which are subject of the case, are listed in seven of the counts.

The prosecution accused Ngwuta of false declaration of assets by failing to declare a parcel of land and properties in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, as well as some luxury cars, all belonging to him, when he declared his assets to the Code of Conduct Bureau between June 2, 2011 and July 19, 2016. The Justice of the apex court is also accused in count eight of engaging in private business as a public officer.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, while responding to the news on behalf of CACOL said that the Centre is contented with the fact that the CCT is playing its constitutional role as expected by the masses of the people as well as exercising its power.

He said “The Code Conduct Bureau is supposed to monitor assets declaration during the entry and exit from public office, Code of Conduct Bureau has a tribunal that can try anybody, even those in power despite the so called immunity. The CCB verifies everything that is declared by an intending public official at the point of entry and do the same at the point of exit. It is also equally empowered to seize properties which any public officer refuses to declare, if a defendant is found guilty, such can either be asked to vacate the office or disqualified from holding public office for 10 years.”

At CACOL, we have always clamoured that anti-corruption institutions be strengthened with human and material resources. We appreciate that the CCT is being pro-active in its role as the body charged with constitutional power to nail public officials over false assets declaration. We once call on the CCB to investigate the alleged case of false assets declaration against the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General TukurBuratai.”

“This move by the CCT is highly impressive and we will like to see more public servants with false asset declarations being prosecuted by the agency. This will do us a whole lot of good in our cravings for transparency and Openness in governance.” Mr. Adeniran concluded

Nigeria's suspension from the EGMONT group, a bad omen for our ailing National Economy - CACOL

The recent public out-cry by the Chairman of the Senate Committee Crimes and Anti-Corruption, Senator Chukwuka Utazi alleging non-cooperation by his colleagues in the House of Representatives to expedite action for the passage of the Bill establishing the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) as an independent entity is a strong indictment on the entire National Assembly particularly coming at the heels of the latest Transparency International, (TI), Corruption Perception Index (CPI) which scored Nigeria rather

low in her battles against corruption.

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL notes that this is happening when Nigeria, our country is struggling to come out of an acute and critical economic



crisis of compounded economic recession, depression, hyper-inflation and crisis of confidence to woo foreign direct investments. A situation which is further aggravated by worsening domestic economic scenario and a beleaguered security situation of herdsman carnages and other menaces of violence cum armed outbursts.

It is apposite to note that the SFIU used to be domiciled

with the Nigeria Police Force which is against the global standard set out by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the international financial organization and the Egmont Group responsible for coordinating global fight against money laundering and financial terrorism. The Unit was later moved to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to facilitate direct access to intelligence information in the very important task of combating financial and economic crimes.

CACOL however refuses to tow the line of a Senate that is peopled largely by suspected corruption criminals in a glaringly self-serving pursuit of removing the SFIU from the EFCC to latch in on the bureaucratic labyrinths the commission will have to pass through against the background of a corrupt system vulnerable to their inordinate machinations to evade justice over their sharp and corrupt practices.

With a lot of extremely more important bills that could facilitate the social welfare being of the people, the Senate in its prioritization within a record period of eight days passed the Bill to establishing the SFIU as an independent unit. This is curious definitely, and the Senate's mission must be viewed with total introspection and circumspection.

The Egmont Group has since July last year suspended Nigeria and may expel the country if the SFIU is not granted autonomy before its forthcoming session in March. An expulsion which would be extremely devastating to the nation's effort to overcome the present economic downturn as its sanction would affect the country's capabilities to transact business with the international business community. The Egmont Group's vote of confidence in any country is like a un-announced collateral that a country is safe to be a preferred destination point for investment.

We, therefore call on the joint committee of the National Assembly and the Presidency to synergize their activities and get their priorities right so as to ensure this situation is managed in such a manner Nigeria's suspension by Egmont Group will be lifted.

Issues of distrust amidst government agencies and institutions also come to the bare with this embarrassing situation, and like we have been agitating, we reiterate that government must work on the harmonization of the relationships amongst the different bodies. This is because where SFIU is domiciled should not be a fundamental issue to disagree upon if there is synergy and seamless communication amongst arms of government.

Clearing the Augean stable needs more than change of batton in SEC

It is no longer news that following last week suspension of Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr. Mounir H. Gwarzo by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Kemi Adeosun, the Director in charge relations in the Commission, Dr. Abdul Zubair has been appointed to serve as the Acting Director General of the organization. As concerned social conscience, it is our duties to alert the general public, the government and relevant bodies on some germane issues particularly observed booby traps that the agency must avoid at all cost. More importantly, it is our strong contention that we must remain eternally vigilant and be pro-active watchdog of the Commission.

It is rather ironic, that global and national financial institutions world-wide are naturally supposed to be garbed in plain clothed linen of trust, integrity, openness and transparency as keepers of peoples and society funds and other treasured properties, but in Nigeria, the opposite seems to always be the case. Going a brief steps down the memory lane, the immediate past experience of the country in the management of securities is riddled with instances of scandalous abuse of office and subversion of due processes. It would be recalled that erstwhile Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ms. Arumah Oteh on assumption of office in 2010 has to wade into the crises of confidence and allegations of sharp practices against the Director General of Nigeria Stocks Exchange (NSE), Lagos, Dr. Ndidi Okereke-Onyuike and very damnable indictments by the business mogul, Aliko Dangote, who was then the President of the NSE. Both Okereke-Onyuike and Dangote were relieved of their posts.

At inception, Arumah asserted that her tenure would entrenched reforms in SEC which would be anchored on five pillars which are integrity, restoration of confidence in the market; building institutional capacity; broadening and deepening the market; as well as instituting transparent regulations. As laudable as these ambitions were and are still valid till today, her tenure was marred with various kinds of allegations and clamour for her removal. She was accused of spending N42Million on hotel accommodation, she had issues of financial inappropriateness in the failed banks deals with AMCON, members of her Management Committee distanced themselves from some of her contentious positions and had running battles with the National Assembly and employees of the Commission. At a point during investigation by the National Assembly, she was suspended and the legislators found her guilty, recommending her prosecution but rather the Government of President Jonathan reinstated her to her position. The lesson from this short historical excursion is that in Nigeria, anything can happen. Thus, it would be condemnable but the ruling elite would only be acting to type if in the not too distant time, Gwarzo is reinstated as the Director General of SEC. This would not only be tragic but set back the hands of anti-corruption clock of this administration back to yesterday.

It would be recalled that Mr. Mounir Gwarzo

was suspended because of strife petitions and allegations against him of awarding a severance package of N104.85Million to himself as severance pay while still serving in office, insider abuse, and infractions of the Public Service Rules 0305 and 0306 to have used nine firms to siphon funds from the Commission. Some of these companies were owned by himself and wife. We are proud to be part of the veritable civil watchdogs that blow the whistle against the sleaze in the SEC. Subsequently, the Minister of Finance suddenly woke up from slumber to set suspend Gwarzo and set up an administrative panel of inquiries. It is our great expectations that this should not be a grand ruse to cover up bigger scandals because the same ministry has a seat in the Board of the Commission that approved the illogical severance pay for Gwarzo. More-importantly, there are fears that his removal may be a smokescreen to divert attention from a panel set up by the Commission to look into allegation of misconduct and abuse of share-holders confidence by Oando Petroleum.

We are most disturbed about all these developments, knowing the crucial roles of the Commission as the Regulators' Regulator and the pivotal imperatives of a vibrant financial securities system to an ailing, depressed neo-liberal economy like ours. The ripples of what is consciously done without appropriate timing or transparency, or even what is left undone would have fatal consequences on Nigerians and the society at large. For instance, the nations' role in the Africa-Middle East Region of International Organisation of Securities Commissions may be heavily compromised.

We welcome the effort of the National Assembly that has set up a body to investigate all the allegations leveled against the suspended SEC DG. We equally urge that pertinent oversight platforms over the Commission including the National Assembly and the Presidency to expedite actions on the report of the administrative panel of enquiry, ensure that it follows the stipulation of extant laws like the Investment and Security Act which set up the Commission without compromising the operational independence, professionalism, functionalism of the Commission as catalyst for economic stability and growth.



Blaming Obama, Cameron, Hollande And Jega For Electoral Defeat Is Outrageous, Disappointing And Of No Consequence, CACOL Tells Goodluck Jonathan

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has described some comments credited to former President Goodluck Jonathan in a book to be launched on Friday as outrageous, disappointing and of no consequence in moving the country forward. “The latest comments from former President, Goodluck Jonathan and most of his public statements after woefully losing in the 2015 general elections have consistently remained 'un-statemany' and serves no positive end in the bid to rebuild our country, Nigeria.” said Mr. DeboAdeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL who spoke on behalf of the Centre.

“His utterances leave many Nigerians wondering what could be responsible for the dodgy, unwarranted and unintelligent statements periodically coming from the former President, particularly when the beams of the country's anti-corruption drive with its attendant heat seem to focus on the plethora of corruption atrocities perpetrated under his watch.”

“This attitude only reinforces the notion that Jonathan has a lot to answer for and he is apparently only preparing his defense before the 'knock' comes on his door to clarify his roles in the humongous cases of corruption that transpired during his tenure as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.”

Continuing, Adeniran, said “it is totally preposterous for the former President to blame the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Professor AttahiruJega for his well deserved loss at the 2015 Presidential elections. It is befuddling to hear these meaningless spins two years after the elections because any discerning mind would necessarily question the motive and purpose. And this is a supposed 'hero of democracy', a titled ascribed to him by his supporters because he congratulated his opponent before the final results of the presidential elections were announced.”

Former President was reported to have blamed the former United States, President Barack Obama, ex-British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande for his defeat, adding that he was disappointed by the conduct of the immediate past Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Prof. AttahiruJega, in the weeks preceding the elections. In a book to be launched on Friday, “Against The Run of Play”, authored by the Chairman of ThisDay Editorial Board, Mr. OlusegunAdeniyi, Jonathan reportedly said he only conceded defeat to avoid bloodshed in view of a similar experience after the 2011 poll.

“We remember that sometime in the past that the ex-President had said that if he spoke the 'heavens' was going to fall, then we told him to 'speak up or forever hold his peace'. Now that he has suddenly found his voice after maintaining 'sealed lips' for more two years, even in the face of the myriad of palpable accusations directed at the acute mis-governance that

characterised his administration, we refused to be impressed, but we are rather disappointed that Dr. Jonathan still nurses the illusion that our country will not move on from the 'stealing is not corruption' mode of governance! Let him be told that, that was the essence of the decision credibly and democratically made by Nigerians in the 2015 general elections.”

Mr. DeboAdeniran said that the former president's position is baseless, petty and pedestrian. “A crucial time like this when the country is in recession and Nigerians are going through a very harrowing experience, calls for sober reflection where leaders who are worth their salts ought to project what will positively steer the ship called Nigeria forward particularly the ongoing anti-corruption drive.”

“The former president's comments will not help the current situation of the country but rather serve as a distraction from the unpleasant aftermaths of his administration. Goodluck Jonathan cannot be objective enough in evaluating himself and his

Obasanjo's Letter To Buhari: Open Confrontation Against The North, Says Group

A pro-Buhari youth group, The Democratic Youths Congress for Buhari 2019, has described former President Olusegun Obasanjo's letter to President Muhammadu Buhari as an open confrontation

against the North that made him what he is.”

Obasanjo had, in an open letter, told Buhari

to jettison his second term ambition over the failure of his administration to tackle the nation's challenges.

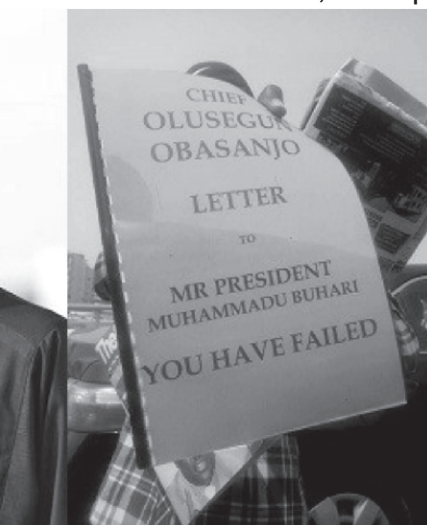
The National Chairman of the group, Kassim



administration. He would only be focused in branding his administration as competent and from all indications he would blame everybody but himself for the malfeasances, maladies and grand corruption that occasioned his tenure. It is only Nigerians and the laws of the country that can be objective enough to assess the performance, competence and lawfulness of the last regime.”

“Generally, we see this episode as another desperate attempt by an individual who is conscious of the reality that he has a lot of questions to answer for when it comes to the corrupt practices that reigned supreme under his watch. He has already put himself on 'trial'! Nigerians are not fools.” Adeniran concluded

Mohammad Kassim, on Friday in Owerri, the Imo State capital, said that Obasanjo's outburst was not in the interest of the nation as he claimed in his letter, but a ploy to re-launch



Nasarawa State House of Assembly representing Akwanga South Constituency said, “I want to categorically state that, not because I am a member of the All Progressives Congress or running a campaign

Contd. on page 29

“Lagos Budget Of Progress And Development Worhty Of Emulation - The Devil Is In Dire Need For Transparency And Citizens Ownership Of Budget“

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode has presented the 2108 budget to the State House of Assembly. The budget tagged “ Budget of Progress and Development” proposed N1.046Trillion to be spent for the completion of on-going projects, commencement of new ones and social infrastructural facilities including health, education, transportation, security and welfare schemes to mention a few. The breakdown shows that N699.082Billion would be spent on capital project and N347.039Billion on recurrent expenditure representing 67% and 33% respectively as well as 28.67% increase over 2017 budget. A number of critical narratives are imperative on this budget proposal.

Indeed, it is not praise singing to note and applaud the fact that in the entire country, it only in Lagos that there is a semblance of governance in the country. There are various developmental projects and investment embarked upon by Mr. Ambode, the general improvement in the road network, bridge construction like the Abule Egba flyoversis worthy of commendation. The State plan to explore and refine oil is a huge and golden investment in the future of the State and its citizens. Yet, the 2018 budget demonstrates that the State is not sleeping on its oars. The budget is not just its highest in the history of the State and second only to that of Cross Rivers State Government in the country. However, while most States and even the Federal Government are enmeshed in budget financed by debt, Lagos is sustaining. The State does not also have any notorious case of owing workers or retirees' pensions.

As much as we identify with the pivot focus of the budget, we believe that a well blessed State like Lagos should also spend more of its budget on social infrastructures. The allocation of less than 12% to education is not acceptable; Lagos should be able to execute the UNESCO recommendation of 26% of its annual budget. The same goes on provision for health, housing and pipe-borne water. It is apposite to equally insist that a State desirous of taking on developmental flight, there two critical projects of the State which this administration is in the best position to execute. The Independent Power Project and Subway Transport System which has been denied the over populated State on the political intrigues can be initiated now. With the State and the Federal Government controlled by the same Party, there should be conscious policy initiatives to implement these projects. In the same vein, the clamour that Lagos should be recognized as a Federal Capital Status should be a major projection in every policy of the State, showing in the Budget what the State loses or can gain with this status.

We are aware that in advanced industrial democratic world, budget is not a ritual of just the Executives and the Legislature but a festival of the entire society. The inputs of social stakeholders, business, labour, informal sector and civil societies are rarely factor into processes of budget passage in the country and when done, it is conducted shoddily. Lagos should be a leading example in this direction. This is even more important because under democratic governance, the general populace are supposed to own the budget.

The question of peoples ownership and transparent passage of budget is even more critical for a society like ours where the eternal vigilance of the populace is necessary for budget

monitoring and execution. This is in addition to the fact that it serves as veritable tool to block leakages and wastages in the system. Corruption is best resisted when the citizens are aware the project, the cost and time of execution in their various areas. In the same way, citizens' support can be mobilized for the projects in their constituencies.

It is our fervent hope that Lagos State would take the leap forward to ensure the citizens of the State own this budget. We call on the State House of Assembly to request that the Executive furnish it of the list of projects contemplated for the Year 2018 and publish same for the entire society to be aware.

Presentation of Lagos State Budget by Governor Akinwumi Ambode



Contd. from page 4

Obasanjo's Letter To Buhari...

team for Buhari but as a matter of fact, Nigerians will agree with me that some of our past leaders are the problem of this country”.

“Why I am saying this is that I want to specifically respond to former President Olusegun Obasanjo because Nigerians will agree that when he (Obasanjo) was President, all his activities were centred on himself alone and that was why he wanted the third term to remain in power and die in power but since that plan was truncated, he became demoralized and felt so bad that Nigerians rejected him to that extent because he was not having any agenda that could promote this country.

“As far as we are concerned

Obasanjo as a former President has not added any value to the system or created any solution for the issues he raised in his letter and he has nothing to show for his eight years regime.”

Meanwhile, the group had reiterated their support and commitment to Buhari's second term ambition, stating that they were not disturbed by the former President's letter.

“We are not worried about Obasanjo's letter because we know that Nigerians are aware of Buhari's achievements. In fact, we are mobilizing 1.5million Nigerian youths from across the 36 states for a rally in Abuja to drum support for the President's re-election”, the group added.

Culled from the PUNCH, Friday, January, 2018

We Should Not Mince Words; Bukola Saraki As Senate President Is An Embarrassment To Nigeria! – CACOL

Sequel to the new report filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC against the Senate President, Bukola Saraki on his involvement in the first tranche of the Paris club fund, linking about N196bn to him and previous fraudulent charges against him, the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has moved that he should be removed.

CACOL has described his actions as one who seems untouchable explaining, that, despite so many fraudulent allegations against him, he had yet to prove his innocence in any of the plethora of allegations against him and this has become a norm; he never gives any logical explanation to exonerate him rather he most times, keeps mum and allows such allegations to die 'natural deaths'.

From time to time, there had always been allegations against the Nigerian Senate President varying from one illegal deal to other fraudulent acts, he keeps moving from one case to the other. It is saddening and



Senate President, Bukola Saraki

disgraceful that a man of such dente

Sometime ago, there was also an allegation against Saraki about his involvement in the forgery of the senate rules. It was gathered that both him and his deputy Ekwere madu illegally amended the standing rules that ostensibly aided their emergencies both as Senate President and deputy President.

Moreso, Saraki's name was mentioned in the discovered secret offshore asset scam released by a German newspaper Sddeutsche Zeitung. The Panama papers reported the biggest leak showing how World leaders, celebrities, criminal etal hid money using anonymous shell corporations across the World; it alleged that about four assets belonged to Saraki and his family in secret offshore territories. Girol Properties, the report stated ,was registered on behalf of Toyin Saraki by Fonseca on August 25, 2004, in the British Virgin Island, a year after her husband, Bukola, became the governor of Kwara State.It added that the company documents showed that Mrs. Saraki “owns 25,000 numbers of shares with a par value of US\$ 1,000 each, and was appointed the first and only director of the company.

Despite all these allegations on false asset declaration, at no time did he ever defend himself clearly in any court, his song had been that he is being persecuted! But by who? When there are concrete evidences against him in that regard that he has not disproved. It

is so shameful that the man who presides over the legislature has such a messy personality as it is expected that anyone occupying such a highly esteemed position should be a man almost without a blemish.

Bukola Saraki becoming the Senate President was a tragedy; and the consequence is what the country is currently facing, this needs to be stated unequivocally! While he was the governor of Kwara State he never maintained a clean record, how come people like him with questionable background get to such exalted position? We need to introspect and act to avoid people that are apparently incurably corrupt or that have baggage that smacks of corruption from occupying our public offices. Let the truth be told!

Considering the amount of embarrassment that he has continually caused the country as a whole, at this junction it is wise that we cast a 'vote of no confidence' on the so called Senate President; he should either

resign or the processes for his impeachment should be commenced by Nigerians who want a better social co-existence than this appalling misrepresentation. We say loud and clear that 'SARAKI IS NOT OUR

SENATE PRESIDENT'!

As we confront our reality and the need to act, we cannot continue to lower the bar in terms of intolerance for corruption. It is either Saraki proves his innocence or not, period! Enough of these distractions!! It is no longer about Magu, Ali, Dino's certificate or whatever contortion that has been thrown so far. We as Nigerians owe this country the duty to make or mar it, beyond the conscious frivolities of the political class that has kept the vast majority in abject penury with so much effrontery.

For Saraki, vacating the office would not enough; he must be duly prosecuted by the EFCC. It is not right that people evade justice at free will. Saraki is not untouchable though he has feigned otherwise; whatsoever the case maybe, he is not above the law.

We at CACOL decided this with and on behalf of millions of hapless Nigerians who have by a choice that is not theirs, fallen or are potential victims of corrupt leaders. This monster torments ordinary people of Nigeria in all areas of their endeavour. We have to confront it with a view to defeating it because it has to be done, not by ghosts or citizens of other nations but by Nigerians who have pride in themselves to be full-blooded Nigerians. Our promotion and pursuance of 'open leadership' is hinged on our belief that it will facilitate transparency and accountability in governance while also plugging the holes of corruption.

Call For President Buhari's Resignation Is Preposterous And Uncalled For At This Moment! – cacol

Mr. Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman, Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leader, CACOL has described calls for President Muhammadu Buhari's resignation as preposterous and unwise at point in the checkered history of the country.

Reacting to calls coming from some quarters for the President's resignation, the CACOL leader said “we say unequivocally that we do not think Buhari should resign at this point in time. This is because whether those behind the calls believe or not, Nigeria has made a lot of gains with Buhari as President. We do not belong to the category that does not recognize that the President's body language and the policies he has been implementing have really put the incurably corrupt elements in government positions and their collaborators on their toes and thereby moving the country toward a more positive direction.”

“It will amount to living in self-deceit if we don't appreciate that Buhari's coming has made the kitchen hotter for most of the dubious elements in our public offices and the private sector with the will and zeal with Mr. President have confronted corruption with thus far.”

“The reality is that Buhari may not drop death like those who his anti-corruption battle is hitting on would want. We must be circumspect in dissecting the Buhari's illness and the consequence of his resignation as at now. We need to look at the gains of the Treasury Single Account, TSA, the re-energized anti-corruption agencies, and the reality that even bribe givers and other corrupt elements who previously operated freely with bared-faced impunity cannot continue 'business as usual' since the new Sherriff came town. The President being alive rather than being dead like his detractors would want scares those who want to continue the business of corruption to the marrows and that are why they would rather want Buhari dead or his resignation at moment. It is a plot to take country back to those corrupt days of particularly the previous government.” Adeniran said

“We know some of those calling for his resignation wouldn't have even suggested the idea when their lord of the manors, Mr. Goodluck Jonathan was on the saddle even if his health status was worse than Buhari because corruption ruled supremely. Aside from this, we dare to say that none of our former Presidents has the pedigree of Buhari when it comes to integrity and frugality. Most of the former leaders own properties and highly unexplainable wealth including Ibrahim Babangida and his hill-top mansion that position him like a demi-god in Minna and Olusegun Obasanjo with his Presidential library and so-called private farm of his at Ota, Ogun state.”

In concluding, Adeniran said, “we advise that those calling for the resignation of the President to shelve such idea because the man has already done what is constitutionally required of him when his health challenges needed to attended to by officially handing over to his deputy to act as the President. Thus there exists no vacuum in power and governance is continuing, making the call for resignation preposterous.

Sick as Buhari is, the kitchen remains hot for the corrupt-minded, and this is why they want him dead or get him to resign. Those who insist he should resign should come up with valid constitutional provisions that say so.

“Nigeria Cannot Afford To Dance To The Rhythm Of Judicial Immunity”

As presently protected by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, immunity to the President and his Vice as well as State Governors and their Deputies remains a highly volatile provision against the background of unbridled brigandage, banditry or naked criminality displayed by those covered by this provision while in office. It is therefore very disturbing perceiving attempts by some strands of the judiciary to cloak that arm of government, particularly serving Judges with immunity from the backroom as evidenced in the recent pronouncement of Appeal Court quashing corruption charges against Justice Nganjiwa.

It would be recalled that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had arraigned Justice Hyeladzira Nganjiwa for allegedly receiving the sun of \$260,000 and N8.65Million to unlawfully enroll himself as a public officer. In the trial, he pleaded not guilty and contended the jurisdiction of the trial court to entertain the case. He lost the contention and proceeded to the court of appeal where it was held that the Judge cannot be prosecuted until he had either been dismissed or compulsorily retired by the National Judicial Council (NJC). In every civilized society governed by the rule of law, it a given fact that there is always separation of powers and where there is overlap, the traditional custodian of the right supersedes the interloper. For instance, the provisions of an enactment of the parliament is superior to a case law while Judiciary interprets the law, it is the executive arm that carries out the day to day running of the law.

It is thus confusing when an NJC is being robbed with the investigative powers of a law enforcement agency. There is no doubt that the NJC as a professional administrative body for legal practitioners has the power to set standard ethics, practices regulations and investigate and sanction members over professional misdemeanor but that is just where it ends. The body does not have powers to investigate or sanction members over allegations bothering on criminal malfeasance, this is an offence against the State.

It is very unfortunate that the NJC which is not a court of law is indirectly been empowered to supersede the court of law by its assertion that a Judge can only be investigated after NJC “Green Light”. This further confounds any reasonable thinker to wonder if the any law enforcement body like the anti-corruption agencies would be able to investigate and prosecute members of the NJC, the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, the High Courts or the Magistrate Courts? If a Judge conspired with others to steal, rape, kill or receive bribe from a politician or any other private citizens, how would such a Judge be brought to book since there is already brick wall of unconstitutional “Judicial Immunity” smuggled in to our legal system?

We, unambiguously condemned this ploy to shatter and destroy known pillars of rule of law and democracy with this judgment. It is a trite fact

that the law respects nobody and there is equality before the law just every person even when on trial is presumed innocent until proven guilty. One therefore wonders why some sections of the judiciary are in haste to provide protection and barricade of immunity for its privileged members

from been investigated or prosecuted except on clearance from its administrative body – NJC. The determination of this case would decide whether Judges through the instrumentality of NJC and manipulation of processes would soon become a specie of “above the law”.

Nigerians are asking NJC to come out into the public market to manifestly demonstrate how many of its high profile members that it has sanctioned or recommended for appropriate criminal investigation prosecution. Whereas, any toddler would roll out cases of cover-ups and filibustering perpetuated by the Judiciary to protect its own. We warn that justice must be done since no heaven shall fall.

NASS N13 BILLION BUDGET FOR 'REFRESHMENTS, TRAVELS AND WELFARE: INSENSITIVE TO THE PLIGHT OF NIGERIANS -cacol

The Centre for AntiCorruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has responded to the 13 billion naira appropriation for the National Assembly as passed by the legislature on Thursday, stating that the budget is apparently a 'budget of agony'.

Describing the budget for the NASS as insensitive, gluttonous and selfish, Mr. DeboAdeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL said that, should the acting President, Prof. YemiOsinbajo assent to it as passed by legislators, then, it would confirm that the Executive and the Legislature are in cahoots to continue to keep the vast majority of Nigerians in perpetually in pains.

The NASS had earlier this week passed the 2017 Appropriation bill for the Presidency to assent to. The budget estimates totals in 7.441trillion naira with NASS estimates standing at the humongous level of 13bn.

“The demonstration of insensitiveness to the sufferings and

very pressing needs of the people is made very manifest by the budget 1.3 billion naira for 'refreshments, travels and welfare' for NASS. These are legislators that are too 'embarrassed' by the humongous remunerations such that they have to shroud it in secrecy as it were, but are yet to satiate their gluttonous tendencies and thus apparently looking for means to corruptly enrich themselves more. This is totally unacceptable!”

“They want to utilize any means possible to continue to impoverish the people while they rollick in illegitimate stupendous wealth. Nigerians must reject this; we must stop those that are hell-bent on the despoliation of our country. We call on the acting President to not assent to a budget that prioritize the insatiable greed and the self-aggrandizing ends of the political class over the class of the downtrodden, the oppressed and exploited who are the majority.' Adeniran concluded.



Military Alert: Fish Out Politicking Soldiers Now! - CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has challenged the Chief of Army Staff, COAS, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai to immediately identify and fish out military officers and other individuals who are alleged to be hobnobbing with politicians ostensibly to overthrow the present democratically elected government. The media reported on Tuesday that the COAS alleged that some people were approaching soldiers for political reasons while issuing a warning to soldiers who might heed to such overtures and pointing the serious consequences.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran while responding to the news on behalf of the Centre said, “this an issue that has to be nipped in the bud with immediate alacrity because of grievous consequence a coup portends for a democratic Nigeria. The suspected military officers must be immediately identified, investigated and punished according to extant laws if found culpable to protect the subsisting democratic and the rule of law.”

“Nigeria cannot afford to repeat history by tolerating military rule again, even for a second! Military rule belongs the past, it's dead, and buried, democracy didn't just come on a platter of gold, it was fought for by some courageous Nigerians in a struggle where plenty were killed, maimed, incarcerated unjustly, 'letter-bombed, tortured psychologically and physically. Nigerians must be alert and vigilant so

that the desperate power-hungry political class does not take country back to the dark days of autocratic rule where dehumanization will be the mode of governing.”

“The military should remember that it derives its authority from civil rule, and soldiers fraternizing with politicians should remember that military rule is no longer fashionable. We do not want a military that is not subject to democracy. The politicians involved too much be identified and charged with treasonable felony if enough evidences validate that” He added

“Nigeria, despite the economic recession, cannot tolerate any military intervention in power. The intelligence arm of the Army should intensify their intelligence gathering efforts and be vigilant about early warning signs for subversive activities. For now, soldiers fraternizing with rebellious politicians should be fished out for immediate court-martial to serve as a serious warning to those harbouring the thoughts of truncating Nigeria's fledgling democracy.”



CACOL Welcomes Buhari's Travel For Check-up, Wishes Him Swift Recovery

The decision made by President MuhammaduBuhari to embark on a travel for medical check-up is logical and welcomed, the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has said.

“It is a good thing that the President has taken the advice given to him by Nigerians to take a medical vacation to thoroughly attend to his medical situation” said Mr. DeboAdeniran, while reacting to the news that all was set for Buhari to travel to London for check-up.

“At this time, we believe the President needs to prioritize his condition. He should go for holistic medical examinations and thorough treatment That is why we allied with other prominent civil society organizations to openly call on the President to do so a couple of weeks back after he had missed some very crucial

functions like the coo-ordination of the weekly Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting.”



President Muhammadu Buhari

“It is quite apparent that the health status of the Mr. President is seriously encumbering his performance; this necessary requires that he attends to his situation to regain vigour and energy in order to be able to infuse same into governance which will at the end benefit the country.”

“In concluding, Adeniran said, “we wish Mr. President the swiftest of al recoveries and we call for the process of handing of power to the Vice President as constitutionally required to commenced to avoid a logjam in governance at this challenging times.”

President Buhari should stop EFCC and DSS from tearing Each other's jugular

“A House Divided Against Itself Can Never Stand”

In less than a month, there are several reports of incidences of inter-agencies clashes especially between officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Securities (DSS) in a manner lacking all the paraphernalia of civil governance guarded by entrenched decorum, protocols, rules and patriotic responsibilities.

In a brazen display of national disgrace and embarrassment, the EFCC and DSS flexed muscles in gangsteric style when the anti-corruption agency wanted to arrest a former Director General of DSS, Ekpenyong Ita, and the same fiasco was displayed at the residence of the former Director General of Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), Mr. Ayo Oke. The operatives of the two security bodies lay armed siege against each others, brandishing sophisticated weapons, taking pictures like yoyo kids for hours.

This act in itself is not only condemnable but it is symptomatic of a larger ailment afflicting our nation. Nigeria is held at captive in a permanent siege by the bankrupt and degenerate ruling class who do not respect the constitution and the citizens aspirations better life and socio-economic advancement in the same way the DSS and EFCC are pursuing a grand design to stalemate President Muhammadu Buhari anti-corruption campaigns. More importantly, the security forces in the country are not suffering from bringing forward the military mentality during the military absolute despoliation of governance in the country but act according to their conception. The security force in Nigeria were established by colonial dispensation as “Forces of Occupation”, decades after, we are yet to purge these bodies from these idiosyncrasies and civilinised, constitutionalised and democratized their operations.

It is a trite fact that the EFCC and DSS are creation of laws and should be accordingly guarded without this menace of inter-agency clashes. The EFCC, like its sister organizations Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), was established by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and deriving further legal sinew from the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), African Union Convention on Preventing and combating Corruption, ECOWAS Protocol on Corruption, UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The DSS on the other hand, though as an intelligence organization, there are various enactments, Instruments and protocols given it powers and regulating its operations, mechanism and jurisdictional demarcation.

Thus under normal and abnormal circumstances, there should not be any valid reasons for the two agencies to have jurisdictional clashes. These agencies are supposed to work together, their operations are meant to be complementary not contentious and antagonistic. We are clear that there breaches by the parties leading to this clashes which must be quickly probed by the Presidency and stopped immediately.

CACOL calls on Mr. President to urgently call the pointsmen of the two organizations to order before the tear eachothers' jugular and shred into dirty pieces this administration's commitment to prosecute without resting the campaigns to eliminate corruption from our national psyche and menu.

As El-rufai Discloses Salary And Security Vote, Cacol Dares Other Governors, Lawmakers To Imitate Him

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has challenged Governors, Legislators and public office holders to disclose their salaries and allowances as Governor Nasir El-Rufai the Kaduna State Governor has done.

Governor, Nasir el-Rufai, on Monday, accepted the challenge of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Yabubu Dogara, by releasing details of his security vote, salary and allowances.

The Governor released a copy of his February pay slip which indicated that his monthly pay was N470, 521.71 after deductions. According to the pay slip, details of the monthly pay include basic salary, N185, 308.75; hardship allowance, N370, 617.50; gross pay, N555, 926.25, PAYE N85, 404.51; total deduction amounts to N85, 401.51 while the net pay stands at N470, 521.74.

Responding on behalf of CACOL is the Executive Chairman, Mr. Debo Adeniran who said that the concealment in the allowances of public office holders that had made it easy for them to cart away exorbitant amount of money without fear.

He said “Lack of government accountability and transparency that, in large measure, has resulted in the high level of corruption in the country. The culture of political and administrative arbitrariness has been the major characteristic undermining good governance in Nigeria.

“Our country witnessed the evolution of a new culture that justified the right of those in powers or with access to power to expropriate public resources without accounting to the public or being responsible for public Increased costs of other purposes especially



l projects, the maintenance of physical infrastructures and the procurement of essential supplies and equipment.

“The fiscal crises of the Nigeria state resulting from massive waste of public funds and collapse in international oil prices, built up large external debts and this increases the levels and intensity of poverty.”

Mr. Adeniran asserted that “The absence of transparency in public spending of our Leaders have resulted in massive looting of the national treasury; lack of accountability and gross mismanagement of public enterprises and institutions by leadership, has generated massive debts that have become a major drain on national resources. There is a growing global consensus on the devastating effect of corruption on development and good governance. There is an organic interconnection between quality of governance and capacity to drive a sustainable development.”

He concluded saying that Gover El-Ruffai has taken the lead in the transparency system of Leadership and would want other public office holders to emulate such and not just stop at openly declaring but should go a step further to slashing their humongous allowances.

“When we talk about values, it should start from the president, governors and other top government functionaries who would lead with examples, sacrificing the outlandish perks they enjoy and concentrate their attention on how to build infrastructure, develop education and enhance social service delivery that will endanger rapid inclusive economic growth. It is cheap, primitive and patronizing for governors to equate distribution of food items to the people at festive occasions with good governance.”

\$1.3b Power Project Fund Scam: Fashola Should Step Aside For Comprehensive Audit And Investigations Without Prejudice

In most civilized democratic society when allegations run amuck insinuating impropriety in handling of public funds, the officer with whom the fund is kept in trust, is expected to honourably resign or step aside from active duties. This allows for investigations to be carried out without hindrances or mutilation instigated by the alleged public officer, and more-over, it also ensure that the activities of the public office go on without distractions that may arise from the probe of the officer. If the President Muhammed Buhari anti-corruption crusade is to be taken serious, Nigeria cannot afford to be an exception in this regard.

The news media is awash with report of efforts of the Senate through its joint Committee on Power and Public Accounts to probe the Minister of Works, Power and Housing, Babatunde Fashola on his arbitrary, reckless and unlawful spending of over \$35Million ware-housed by Nigeria Electricity Bulk Trading Company (NBET) from a pool of \$1Billion Eurobond issue accessed by the administration of President Jonathan in 2013. Our concern at this point would be clearer with a brief narrative of some salient background fact on how intrinsic, systemic corruption perpetuated by individual holds us at ransom as a nation.

It would be recalled that when the former President Olusegun Obasanjo was shutting round the globeto persuade financial institutions for our debt forgiveness, one of the revelations was that most of the borrowed money were expended on bogus, non-viable projects while the larger chunk found its way into the pockets of policy administrators. It is also apposite that in the past, over N35billion has been

expended on the power sector, going down the drain with sleaze without any improvement in the sector. We are even more scared with the antecedent of Babatunde Fashola in this regard. He left Lagos State



Minister of Power, Babatunde Fashola, SAN

Government with an unwieldy foreign and local debt profile of over N1tn despite the high internally generated revenue. During his screening by the Senate, there was a mild drama when the ex-Governor feigned ignorance of the scandalous N78 spent from Lagos public funds to build his personal website; he shamelessly claimed that he does not sign cheques!

The \$1billion Eurobond issue was gotten by the Federal Government in 2013, part of it; the sum of \$350million was earmarked for NBET in 2014, as

part of the power generation project reforms. Information spilling out now is the Minister has once again dipped his fingers into public funds; he has unilaterally given \$29Million to General Electric and \$6Million to others ostensibly for an Afam Fast Power Project. The huge question is that it cannot be ascertained if there is sustainable feasibility on the viability of this project, whether there is presidential approval but obviously there was no appropriation by the National Assembly. It beats one's imagination how a supposed senior legal luminary could contemplate a policy actions without rudimentary backing of due process and law. This is not surprising however as the Minister has once been queried by the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP) for constructing roads and bridges without the necessarily following the statutory due processes and approvals.

We at the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, do not only throw our support behind the invitation of the joint Senate Committee to invite the Minister for clarification, we call on the lawmakers to conduct a comprehensive audit of the \$1billion Eurobond as their might have been other infractions committed without been yet exposed to the public glare. If the Minister and others are found culpable in any malfeasance, they should be appropriately reported and hand over to the anti-corruption agencies for further investigation and prosecution. CACOL therefore, unequivocally call on the Minister to step aside for smooth probe of his deeds of brazen and daring expenditure of public funds, \$35Million already spent, without statutory appropriation.

MrAdeniran reiterated that "As a matter of fact, since the kitchen became hotter for corruption criminals based on the ongoing war against corruption, corrupt elements are fighting back using every means available including lapses in our laws to evade justice. Just like in the case of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission versus Ademola and his cohort, EFCC and Patience Jonathan's case and other similar cases. The plethora of corruption cases that the ongoing anti-corruption drive has thrown up calls for reforms in the existing judicial system to ensure that the efforts to rid Nigeria of sharp practices bears fruits."

He also reinforced that the idea by the FG to establish special courts for corruption and kidnap as step ahead of criminals who had always deployed different tactics to evade justice. "As corruption fights backs viciously, the logical response is to; lawfully remove all the encumbrances on the path of the anti-corruption drive which corruption criminals cleverly use to wriggle through the labyrinths of the existing judicial system to escape justice." He averred

"We at CACOL welcome this initiative, but the proactive steps must being taken to achieve the establishment of Special Courts, particularly

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CACOL Lauds Bill On 20 Years Jail Term For Economic And Financial Crimes, Seeks Life Imprisonment For Convicts With Above N1bn Loot

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has welcomed and commended the steps being taken by the House of Representatives, HOR on four consolidated bills seeking to strengthen the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC as the fight against corruption surges on.

Mr. Debo Adeniran, who spoke on behalf of the Centre said, "it is indeed impressive to see to the HOR taking practical steps to disencumber the fight against corruption. We had always called for amendments to some of our laws which apparently are not restrictive enough to deter or debar people from engaging in corrupt practices." "Some of these laws actually pamper corrupt tendencies and encumber the progress of the anti-corruption drive leading to corruption criminals wriggling through the labyrinths of the judicial and enforcement systems to evade justice willfully."

The bills before the House are seeking to strengthen the EFCC in combating economic and financial crimes; shield the agency from undue interference by the Presidency and for its financial autonomy. Part of what is expected to from the amendments is that convicts of corruption crimes shall serve an imprisonment of a term not less than 20 years; have their loots, accounts or investment forfeited to the government.

Continuing on the step by HOR, The Chairman of CACOL said "at this period when the Senate has become a house of tragic comedy based on the pro-corruption character of the leadership and a large chunk of the membership of the Upper Chamber, it is indeed refreshing to see the HOR attempting to focus on matters worthy of attention than inanities."

"We call for expeditious actions towards the enactment of the bills into law. We add that President Muhammadu Buhari must ensure that stolen funds so far recovered by the government are not looted back by the incurably corrupt elements that are clearly still lurking around in very powerful positions in the present government."

"CACOL had consistently called for life imprisonment for convicts that stole any amount above 1 billion naira, and that such big thieves should be made to work diligently for their own upkeep while in prison via whatever skills they possessed

Handing Over Of Hospital To Air Force By EFCC Is Commendable Logical – CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has commended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for handing over a hospital with medical equipment worth about \$2.15m which was seized from a former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Adesola Amosu (retd.) to the Nigerian Air Force medical unit.

Reports stated that the hospital, St. Solomon Hospital, which is located on Adeniyi Jones Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos, having very expensive equipment including a Magnetic Resonance Imaging(MRI) machine which costs well over \$1m have been handed over to the Air force pending the outcome of Amosu's trial. It is assumed that the money used in buying the hospital was stolen from the

previously or has been able to learn behind the bars. For us, 20 years maximum imprisonment is not enough, particularly for those corrupt elements who remained recalcitrant and impenitent during trials, those that consciously made the country to expend undue energy, resources and time before their conviction."



"They should be used as objects to educate the young, the youth and all when they go on excursion to the prisons. Seeing former corrupt leaders in such situation will certainly serve to deter the potentially corrupt. And assets traced to such convicts should be deemed to be proceeds of corruption and confiscated by the Nigerian state,"

Mr. Adeniran commended the war against corruption thus far but added that recovered funds should not be stolen; rather they should be channelled back to the original projects or purposes for which they were meant.

"In cases where the original projects have been fixed, such funds should be put in Treasury Single Account (TSA) and used for other important needs of the nation. It would a double tragedy if recovered funds/loots end-up getting re-looted. The processes involved in the recovery must be made transparent and accountable," He concluded

air force.

Other properties seized from Amosu included a house on Adeyemo Alakija Street, GRA Ikeja worth N250m; a duplex at House 11, Peace Court Estate, GRA Ikeja worth N110m; a N40m property located at NAF Harmony Estate, Asokoro base; a five-bedroomed house at Valley NAF Estate, Port Harcourt, worth N33m and a N95m house on Umaru Dikko Street, Jabi. The Federal Government has also commenced moves to seize Amosu's house at 50 Tenterden Grove, NW41TH, London worth about £2m.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran while reacting to the news said the decision and many more like this will go a long way in helping the health sector in coping with challenges of infrastructural deficiencies.

He said "seeing that the EFCC had decided to tread this path gives us hope of winning the war against corruption to achieve positive impacts on the people. It has always been our position at CACOL that whatever money/property recovered from looters should be re-channelled back to the original project the looted funds/property were meant for. If funds meant for a particular project that gets diverted, once such fund is recovered by any anti-corruption agency, such monies should be used to fund the project that was made un-actualizeable as a result of looting."

Mr. Adeniran further advised the Federal Government to embrace this practice as it would help reduce multiple funding of projects and ensure resources are used for their original purpose/s.

He said "one major aftermath of corruption in the country is an epileptic economy. Once the funds allocated to a project get been pillaged, fresh funds are often released for such abandoned project. This has consistently over time landed us in the pitfalls of economic disasters."



Malalbu Oil Scam Case Must Not Die A 'natural' Death – CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has told the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC to bring former Attorney-General of the Federation, AGF, Mr. Mohammed Adoke (SAN), to court by any means possible explaining that the case is becoming too stale.

Adoke whose trial had been in court since Dec 21, 2016, had not appeared in court till date, he has continually responded via letters, press releases and other means to the EFCC from his base in Netherlands.

Justice John Tsoho of the Federal High Court, Abuja in his ruling on Tuesday had refused to grant EFCC's request for a warrant to facilitate the arrest of the former AGF stating that the Commission did not need one to produce the accused in court.

Mr. Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL while responding to the ruling on EFCC's request for an arrest warrant for Adoke, said "the ruling is too vague and feared that it has some undertones."

He urged the agency to do whatever is right within its constitutional powers to bring the former Attorney General back to the country for him to face charges in the law court and be duly prosecuted alongside others who were involved in the Malabu Oil Scam.



He said, "Adoke cannot be greater than Nigeria which means that he is not above the law. He should be brought to face his trial in the law court. It is insolent of him and his lawyers that they had never appeared in

court since the beginning of his trial; his actions underrate and undermine the powers and acts of the anti-graft agency which is established by the constitution to arrest and prosecute corruption criminals." "

"The EFCC should go ahead and relate with the Interpol for Adoke's arrest and if that proves abortive, then they can now insist for an arrest warrant from the court."

Mr. Adeniran also said that the anti-graft-agency needs to be proactive in their intelligence gathering, investigations and diligent prosecutions.

"The reason for these unnecessary gimmicks by Adoke is to allow the case 'die a natural death' like the traditional practice all high profile corruption suspects are wont to do. The EFCC needs to be painstaking in its operations; work intelligently and should always be a step ahead of suspected corruption criminals particularly when they are high profile ones. Nigerians deserve justice and are looking up to both the EFCC and the Judiciary to bring them exactly that."

"The Centre had been following the matter closely from inception till date. No one should be spared in this case, Adoke has mentioned some 'powerful' names, we insist that those mentioned

should be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted, and if found guilty they should be punished according to the law."

CACOL Lauds Cct's Effort To Seize Saraki, Judge Alleged Undeclared Assets

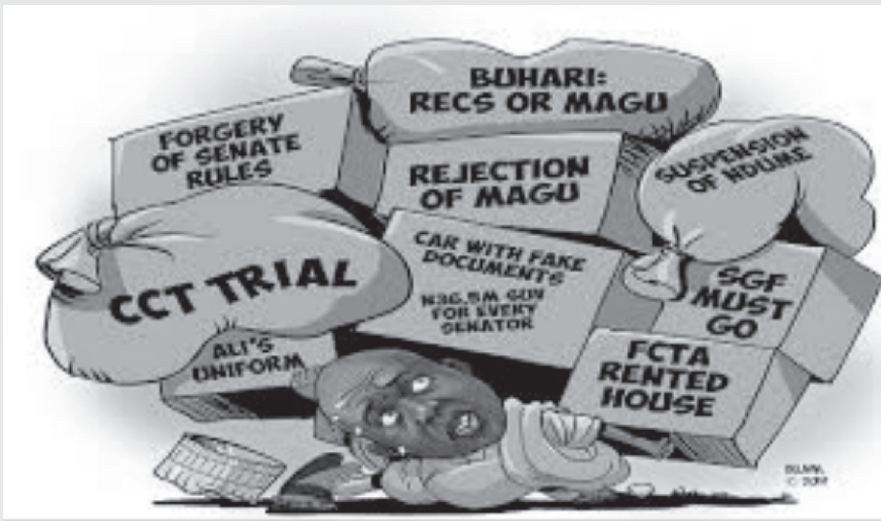
The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has commended the move by the Code of Conduct Tribunal, CCT to seize the alleged undeclared assets by the Senate President, Bukola Saraki, and Justice Sylvester Ngwuta of the Supreme Court.

According to media reports, the Senate President is being prosecuted by the Federal Government before the CCT on 18 counts bordering majorly on false assets declaration and other encroachments. Some of Saraki's properties which are the subject of the charges preferred against him are located at 15, 17, 17A and 17B McDonald Street, Ikoyi, Lagos. Others are located at Plots 2481 and 2482 Cadastral Zone A06, Maitama, Abuja. He is also accused of obtaining a N375m loan from Guaranty Trust Bank Plc on February 11, 2010, which was reported that he used to purchase property in London. The Senate President was said to have failed to declare the London property.

On the other hand, Justice Ngwuta was charged on eight counts before the CCT on April 20 this year, properties, which are subject of the case, are listed in seven of the counts.

The prosecution accused Ngwuta of false

declaration of assets by failing to declare a parcel of land and properties in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, as well as some luxury cars, all belonging to him, when he declared his assets to the Code of Conduct Bureau between June 2, 2011 and July 19, 2016. The Justice of the apex court is also accused in count eight of engaging in private business as a public officer.



The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, while responding to the news on behalf of CACOL said that the Centre is contented with the fact that the CCT is playing its

constitutional role as expected by the masses of the people as well as exercising its power.

He said "The Code Conduct Bureau is supposed to monitor assets declaration during the entry and exit from public office, Code of Conduct Bureau has a tribunal that can try anybody, even those in power despite the so called immunity. The CCB verifies everything that is declared by an intending public official at the point of entry and do the same at the point of exit. It is also equally empowered to seize properties which any public officer refuses to declare, if a defendant is found guilty, such can either be asked to vacate the office or disqualified from holding public office for 10 years."

At CACOL, we have always clamoured that anti-corruption institutions be strengthened with human and material resources. We appreciate that the CCT is being pro-active in its role as the body charged with constitutional power to nail public officials over false assets declaration. We once call on the CCB to investigate the alleged case of false assets declaration against the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Tukur Buratai."

"This move by the CCT is highly impressive and we

CACOL Admonish Governors To Ensure The Paris Club Loan Refund Reaches Beneficiaries

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has charged Governors to direct and channel the Paris Club loan Refund recently ordered to be released to the states by President Mohammadu Buhari to the real beneficiaries.

The Fund according to the President is specifically for the settlement of unpaid salaries and pension arrears of their workers in the respective states. He said "I will not rest until I address those issues that affect our people. One of these basic things is the issue of salaries. It is most important that workers are able to feed their families, pay rent and school fees, then other things can follow."

The Executive Chairman, Mr. Debo Adeniran who spoke on behalf CACOL said the news of the release of the second tranche of the Paris Club loan Refund enthralled the organization. He however expressed fear and suspicion concerning the possible mismanagement and misappropriation or outright embezzlement of the funds by some Governors.

He said "we are impressed by the decision of the President to order the release of the loan Refund and the further instruction given by him that Governors should make sure that the funds gets to the end beneficiaries. But we recall the bail-out funds given out to some states previously by the Federal government never got to be used for the purpose they

were meant to serve, that is, to pay arrears of workers' salaries. The funds which were given to governors then in order to help people out of economic hardship were mismanaged by some state governors which increased the sufferings of the end beneficiaries at the end of the day."

Adeniran further highlighted the unfairness and wickedness of governors who divert or mismanage funds meant for pensioners who die on daily basis die while queuing for their pensions or workers who are left to hunger because of unpaid arrears and salaries. "Such funds are supposed to be 'sacred' given the fact that the beneficiaries had served the country so loyally and diligently for years only to die of hunger at the hands of the operators of the states." He averred

He concluded that "The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offence Commission, ICPC and other anti-corruption agencies should be pro-active by keeping their lenses on the movement and handling of the funds and how it is been allocated in each state. This will help in reducing the impunity with which some the governors divert, mismanage or embezzle funds meant for specific purposes leading to socio-economic crisis that increases the sufferings of the ordinary Nigerian."



Suspension of SGF, NIA MD is welcomed in spite of its belatedness - CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has described the suspension of Babachir Lawal, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF and that of the Director-General of National Intelligence Agency, NIA, Ambassador Ayo Oke as a welcomed development and a move in the right direction.

Joining other Nigerians in welcoming the suspensions, Mr. Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL said "It is a step in the right direction. The suspension of the SGF is without doubt belated but we congratulate the Presidency for the bold step it has taken. For us, it ought to have been done right from when the news broke out over allegations of sharp practices in the award of contracts in the Presidential Initiative for the North East."

"Babachir, who oversees the Initiative, was accused of owning one of the firms that contracts for the rehabilitation of the North East were awarded to. He was alleged to have resigned as a director with the firm after he became SGF and after the contracts had been executed."

As for the Director-General of the NIA, Ambassador Ayo Oke, Adeniran said "it is the best thing the government could do to save face and to prove that it is not treating corruption with deodorant rather than using insecticide. And that is the way to go."

Reiterating the stance of CACOL on Babachir should, he said "the SGF resign now that the Presidency has taken the bold step of suspending him. In the past, we had called for the resignation of Babachir for the sake of Mr. President himself and his acclaimed anti-corruption stance on hand and on the

EFCC DETAINS EX-SGF, BABACHIR LAWAL

Immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has detained the immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal, for alleged fraud to the tune of N223m, The PUNCH can confirm.

It was learnt that Lawal arrived at the Abuja office of the EFCC around 11am on Wednesday after which he was detained.

When contacted on the telephone, the acting spokesman for the EFCC, Mr. Samin Amaddin, confirmed Lawal's arrest to our correspondent. He said, "It is true. The former SGF honoured an invitation and arrived at our office around 11am on Wednesday. He was thereafter detained."

Lawal's detention comes less than three months after he was sacked by President Muhammadu Buhari for financial impropriety and less than 24 hours after former President Olusegun Obasanjo described the anti-corruption war as one-sided. The EFCC is probing Lawal for alleged contract scandal, violation of Public Procurement Act, abuse of office and mismanagement of funds.

It was learnt that the former SGF was brought before a special team of investigators set up by the acting Chairman, Mr. Ibrahim Magu. After being grilled for about eight hours, he was asked to remain in custody after which interrogations will continue on Thursday (today).

Two separate committees headed by Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo and the Senate Ad hoc Committee had last year recommended the prosecution of all those involved in the alleged contract scam in the Presidential Initiative in the North-East headed by Lawal. Among other things, the ex-SGF, who is the prime suspect, was accused of awarding a N223m consultancy contract for the removal of invasive plant species in Komadugu, Yobe Water Channels to his company, Rholavision Engineering in contravention of Section 43(iii) and (iv) of the Public Procurement Act 2007.

The firm was said to have been incorporated by Lawal in 1990 for the purpose of ICT services and not for agro-business. The contracts awarded by PINE allegedly had no direct bearing to the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons. The former SGF was said to be a director of the same firm till September 2016 when the contract was allegedly awarded.

Culled from The PUNCH, January 25, 2018



APC Senators' Call On Fg To Drop Case Against Saraki At Cct Is Preposterous, Shameless And Illegal! – CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, enraged by the effrontery of the call by some All Progressive Congress, APC Senators on the Federal Government, FG to drop the case against the Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki at the Code of Conduct Tribunal, CCT, has described the call as preposterous and totally unacceptable.

constitutional power to do what he being ask to do because the State is the superstructure and it's above every citizen!"

"Should it be that Senators are requesting that the President should use his veto power, then it will confirm that Nigeria is indeed moving in a state of

crime."

"The aberration Nigerians massively voted against is what the APC senators actually want to sustain with this illegitimate and unrepresentative call. This is a conspiracy of the apparently corrupt senators to lord their self interests over Public interest. The call by the senators also portrays a shameful solidarity of the dubious characters in the Red Chamber given that they recognize that should the 'axe of justice' fall on Saraki, many others who have several corruption allegations against them would suffer similar fate."

"Nigerians must let the narrow-minded senators know that Nigeria does not belong to any political party as a property or commodity that can be traded on the basis of political intrigues and internal wrangling of any group or person. We have a constitution that we are duty bound to comply with and must not circumvent! We say an emphatic NO to dropping corruption charges against Bukola Saraki and every other suspected corruption criminals!



Media reports of the meeting of APC Senators with the leadership of the party had revealed that the lawmakers are demanding that the FG and President Mohammedu Buhari should drop the case Saraki at the CCT, declaring the trial as being 'political'.

'What an 'easy' way out for the 'untouchable' Senate President with so much baggage of corruption allegations against him! Mr. Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL exclaimed. He said "this is totally outrageous, irresponsible, immoral and disrespectful of the constitution of our country, Nigeria."

"It betrays the very fact that the deceit of the occupiers of our public offices including their so-called parties knows no bounds and no shame. These are supposed members of a party that rode on the mantra of change and commitment to fight corruption to get to power openly clogging the progress of movement towards change and anti-corruption as against the desires of the majority of Nigerians that voted them in 2015."

"It is important to state to these shenanigans that Mohummadu Buhari is not the FG, he is the President, and that makes it obligatory for him to comply with the constitution of the Federal Republic. It is the Republic, the State, the country that has charged Saraki for all the corruption cases against him and not any individual, group or party. It is absolutely not a 'party affair' thing, and the President, albeit, an APC member lacks the

motionless motion. Such a move by President will be tantamount to returning to the dark days when former President Goodluck Jonathan granted 'presidential pardon' to his benefactor, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, a former governor of Bayelsa state who was impeached on allegations of corruption on 9 December 2005, jailed in the United Kingdom and convicted in Nigeria over same reasons."

"Again, let it be said, that, this is another litmus test for the anti-corruption drive in the country as far as we are concerned in CACOL, and we state clearly here that should Saraki's case at CCT or his other corruption cases be dropped, it will sound the death knell of the anti-corruption drive!"

"As appalling as the call is, it demonstrates that it is Nigerians in their different social formations that can indeed fight corruption at the end of the day. We have seen regimes in the past and their different approaches to fighting corruption, and our experience reveals that if the people leave the fight to the government and its agencies alone, the whole anti-corruption efforts would most likely come to nullity."

"Therefore we call on Nigerians to resist this attempt to insult and toy with our collective intelligence. We must call for all corruption cases to be pursued to judicial and logical conclusions no matter who is involved. We only need to ask why the so-called honourable senators prefer their option of dropping the case against Saraki rather than asking him to defend himself at CCT if he has not committed any

CACOL berate Saraki for attacking EFCC, ICPC

The Chairman of CACOL, Debo Adeniran, on Monday, noted that Saraki was involved in several allegations of corruption, adding that it was not surprising that he had chosen to attack the anti-corruption agencies.

He said, "You have three arms of government and Saraki is the head of one of them. All the laws under which the Federal Government operates, emanate from the National Assembly. If any department of the government is failing, the Senate has oversight functions. If Saraki accuses the government of being sensational, he is part of the sensationalism.



Senate President, Bukola Saraki

"Also, because Saraki is psychologically involved in all the accusations, especially levelled by the EFCC, and the Code of Conduct Tribunal, you will expect that he will discredit the agencies bringing him to the fore. Also, because the executive has not risen to cover up the Senate members undergoing investigations, the Senate President will not be in good terms with the executive.

"The Senate President should be ashamed to say that a government, where he is number three, is sensational."

Culled from The PUNCH online

Attack On Amnesty International; Embarrassing, Unacceptable – CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has condemned the attack on a global Human Rights Organization, Amnesty International, AI, at its Abuja office on Monday by a so-called civil society organization under the name GOPRI.

The attack was reported to have continued today, Tuesday after the group of protesters had on Monday barricaded the Abuja office of AI demanding that organization should leave Nigeria within 24 hours.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran expressed his consternation that any civil society organization could think of attacking such a popular global organization. He said "we are talking here about an organization with the reputation of being on the side of the less privileged and voiceless whose rights are constantly trampled up. The incidence is totally embarrassing and unacceptable. It is a S o move that indicate a slide back to the dark days of the military when human rights organizations and activists were hounded into exile or driven 'underground'."

"How do we explain this? It is a bad development that could tarnish our image as country among the comity of nations. It is odd that this has happened in a country under democratic governance; a country that is a signatory to several conventions and charters of human rights, which guarantees the freedom of association, expression, assembly, movement etc."

"Before this occurrence, it was already being peddled that the government was not comfortable with some of AI's reports on Nigeria

with regard to the protection of human rights of Nigerians particularly in parts of the country where there have been violent conflicts between the security agencies and militants or insurgents.

society organization is disgusting. It is unheard of, unthinkable, that an organization like the AI that is welcomed with open arms by most countries and civil groups globally as a result of the positive impacts of their work could treated in this manner. Any civil group worth its salt at all would never contemplate attacking AI and that is why the elements behind the attack should be investigated because as matter of fact no organization has the right to ask AI or any other organization to leave the country. It is only the Nigerian State that possesses such powers."



President Muhammadu Buhari

sponsors. We call on the Federal



this attack would definitely portray our country as a human rights unfriendly one."

"That the attack was led by a so-called civil

tendencies must not be allowed to fester; it must be nipped in the bud. Failure to do this, will definitely lead to a back-slide in the country's democratization processes." Adeniran concluded

“Nigeria is a Nation held at hostage by inter-agency rivalries”

A House Divided Against itself cannot Withstand Adversarial Wind

Almost in spite of wise counsel and common intelligence to the contrary, virtually all the key officers manning anti-graft under President Muhammed Buhari are tearing at each other's jugular determined to ensure that battle against the monstrous corruption fails beyond any form of redemption. Complicated revelations of mind boggling scandals of allegations and sometimes counter allegations by public office holders and bodies under this administration makes the recent assertion of the President of Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN), Dr. Samson Ayokunle very apt when he alerted that “we need to caution the President in particular that the fight against corruption may not be too far away from around him. Those hands that are not right around him, he should be courageous enough to deal with them”.

The comedy of error is legion and the fallacy of “what about you” under this dispensation is legendary. The drama premiered with cutting Ibe Kachikwu to his place by Maikanti Baru was followed by Abdulrasheed Maina reinstatement, sack and disappearance which is as tearfully comical as the shouting bout of Abba Kyari and Oyo- Ita in the hallowed chamber of Federal Executive Council. The collective indictment for us as a nation comes when corruption points accusing fingers at all, as the Minister for Justice and Attorney General sings “ it wasn't me ” and others in the Interior, Presidency, Head of Service et.al chorus for him. We are now at a cross road where the various anti-graft agencies are either at open cold war or marking time to take sides. The obvious implication is that these security agencies, DSS, EFCC, NFIU, CCB, ICPC have been effectively muffled, becoming toothless bulldog that can not give sinew to the President anti-corruption campaign while “corruption” and its proselytes are the only

beneficiaries of the attendant, raging inter-service rivalries.

A cursory example suffices to buttress our point and show a gory portrait of the situation. The EFCC accused the Department of State Security Service attempting to scuttle its investigations into the \$2Billion arms scam perpetrated by the former Security Adviser, rtd. Col. Sambo Dasuki, by refusing to release the department suspected officers for question. DSS on the other hand is alleging witchhunting because its Director General, Lawal Daura did not

absence of inter-agency collaboration. The work of most agencies are intertwined, therefore, there must be sharing of information at real time as the findings into the 9/11 incidence revealed. Today, because of intra-agency petty and negative rivalries, the country has been suspended from the Egmont group which is the operational arm of the global organisation for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), ostensibly because of an initiative by the Attorney General to yank off National Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) from EFCC as its autonomy is a desideratum to be part of the Egmont group.

The logical necessity for inter-agency collaboration is that while money laundering falls under the mandate of EFCC; there are issues in counter-financing of terrorism that are under the purview of DSS internal security mandate particularly because of events in the North East or external activities of the

National Intelligence Agency (NIA). It is only a devious system design by an element like Adolf Hitler that would consciously promote the negative import of inter-service rivalries instead deploying same as a balancing factor as was his policy of “survival of the fittest” between the Wehrmacht and Waffen SS during the Third Reich.

Nigeria has a rich history of collaborations between security agencies either as unified or joint command structures which have over the years proven very helpful. Examples abound in the operations of the various Joint Task Force (JTF) which litter our geo-political landscape. The Eagle square bombing of 1st October, 2010 underscores more imperatively why inter-agencies rivalry must be shunned at all cost and collaboration embraced.

give a clean bill of health to the Senate during the screening of the Acting Chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu. If there is no synergy between security agencies, when issues degenerate into the low abyss of inter-personal interests, how can they prosecute the battle against corruption with one mind? This is volatile landmine waiting to explode; concerted efforts must be garnered to diffuse it.

It is instructive to note that all over the world, there are instances of inter-service rivalries but this is usually on operation matters and not to the extent of compromising securities or mandated objectives, whenever this occur, the consequences are always very fatal. For instance, the twin bombing in the United States in 11th September, 2001 was discovered to have occurred due to the



Nigeria Custom Service, its comptroller General; beyond the 'uniform' debacle – CACOL

In recent times, there have been controversies over the operations of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS); the conduct of its officials, custom duties, policies etc. These controversies have pitched Nigerians in different camps as far as discerning the whole scenario is concerned.

From exorbitant custom duties to the traumas of clearing and forwarding, from chronic corruption to the wicked exploitation of innocent Nigerians, from incompetence to floppy operations, and a lot more represents what is manifesting from the current heat that is on the NCS. The Service, and its boss, the Comptroller General (CG), Col. Hameed Ibrahim Ali rtd., whose arrogance has pitched him with the National Assembly over adorning his uniform or not, are very much in the eye of the storm presently.

Some of flash-points that have drawn out the NCS into National discourse include the January arrest of seizure of illegal items in Lagos. It was reported that the NCS along Mile2-Apapa road, intercepted a Mack truck carrying 661 illegal pump-action rifles concealed in iron doors.

In February, the Federal Operation Unit (FOU) of the NCS went on a midnight raid at the Sango-Ota Rice market where the broke into stalls and carted away 1,870 bags of rice and 43 jerry cans of vegetable oil which the service alleged to have been smuggled into the country.

Not too long after that, some officers of the Oyo-Osun Area Command of the Service invaded a warehouse in Ibadan and apprehended 9,000 bags of rice worth about N88.7m which was claimed by the CG to have been smuggled into the country; this operation was also carried out from evening throughout the night!

In the three scenarios, it was proven that the goods/contrabands were impounded after 'passing' through the borders which shows that there are internal problems in the NCS bordering on its competence in monitoring of the country's borders. The first priority of the NCS is to protect the border but unfortunately, the reverse has been the case, as our borders have continually remained porous which impacted negatively on the country socio-economically.

Customs duties on vehicles with the rigors and oftentimes extortion that accompany its application have been one of the major issues that continue to keep majority of Nigerians disgruntled about NCS operations. The operations had been and continue to be bedeviled with corruption, nepotism, lack of

transparency and accountability.

Thus, while we unequivocally condemn the unwarranted arrogance and unpatriotic attitude of the CG of NCS for his irrational decision not to appear in uniform before the Senate, our



Centre, Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL calls on Nigerians not to lose focus of the background of the melodrama that is being played out presently. We must understand that the issues are more profound beyond the pettiness of Ali and the 'almighty' Senate, the arguments will fritter away and the fundamental challenges will remain.

In CACOL, we align with those who insist that Ali should wear his uniform or quit, those are the

choices before him, his joke has been taken too far. The Senate is a Constitutional Institution and has to be treated as such regardless of the occupants. All the arguments in support of his recalcitrance pale up to disrespecting the country and only attempts to justify misdemeanor. We are displeased and totally condemn the actions of the CG of the NCS, who has made himself appear as one who is above the law and the country. We expect the CG to do what is right by putting the interest and the reputation of the country first.

The profound lesson from this experience is that when we do not build virile institutions that can auto-clean itself of corruption and maladministration through internal mechanisms, issues like this will always arise. We could ask why is it the practice for long to always look outside certain institutions to choose/appoint who leads them like the NCS case that is led by a retired Colonel as CG? Are officials not supposed to ride through the ranks to reach leadership via merit? Are there no men of honour and integrity within the Service that could have risen through the ranks to become CG? Do we have to put round pegs in round holes?

The problems are deeper than the pettiness we are witnessing, it is the system that has been, and still subsist that requires overhauling, a task which is apparently beyond the present government. This too, Shall pass! And the NCS operations will remain same if we are not circumspect enough by focusing on the details of the scenario to bring out the fundamental issues that must be addressed in moving forward from the present state!!

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Stella oOduah: Report yourself to the EFCC or be picked up like a common criminal - CACOL

constitutional immunity from investigation and prosecution, so why is the Senator playing hide and seek with EFCC especially since she claim that she has no skeleton. Must we remind her that even the President of Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Bukola Saraki is presently facing a trial at the Code of Conduct Tribunal, who then is she to transmute herself into a sacred cow above the law of our land.

We advise that she should, by any means necessary, report herself to the EFCC within the next twenty four hours, failing which, the agency is at liberty to get a bench warrant for her apprehension and she should be manacled and dragged with the full fang of law enforcement to dance to the music as a common criminal that she apparently is.



CACOL, CD Knock N'assembly Over Budget

Two Civil Societies Organisations, the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders and Campaign for Democracy, have lambasted the Senate and the House of Representatives for allocating about N13bn for refreshments, travels and welfare in the 2017 budget.

The CACOL Chairman, Debo Adeniran, said in statement on Saturday that the presidency should not assent to the “insensitive” budget, which did not consider the plight of the masses.

He said, “That allocation is a graphic example of how to be insensitive to the plight of the citizens of Nigeria. The lawmakers are catching in on the people's docility.

“Nigerians are going to rise up against such wastefulness. These are the people who claim to sit on our behalf at the National Assembly. Our legislators make laws to secure their emoluments and so on.

“If the presidency consciously allows this outrageous budget, then it is an accomplice.

“The National Assembly can reverse itself because we are still in a recession and they should emphathise with us.”

Also, the CD President, Usman Abdul, said the country would suffocate if Nigerians did not call to question, such “abnormalities” being perpetrated by the National Assembly.

He said, “It is becoming a norm in our budgetary allocations to have such abnormalities. You have traditional gifts, entertainment and other frivolities in the budget.”

Culled from: The PUNCH, Sunday, May 14, 2017 (Bayo Akinloye and Olaleye Aluko

Recession: For Political Elite, No Tightening Of Belts

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership has described the National Assembly’s budget as “selfish”, “gluttonous” and a “budget of agony”.

“One of the most alarming aspects of the budget is perhaps demonstrated in the insensitiveness to the sufferings and very pressing needs of the people, made manifest by the N13bn proposed for ‘refreshments, travels and welfare’ for the NASS

“In this parlous state of economic recession with the accompanying pangs and pains of the majority of Nigerians, this totally defiles logic and is thus unacceptable!

“We conclude therefore by calling on the Acting President to not assent to a budget that prioritises the insatiable greed and the self-aggrandising ends of the political class over the existential needs of the downtrodden, the oppressed and exploited, who are the majority,” the statement by Debo Adeniran, CACOL’s Executive Chairman, had read.

Culled from The PUNCH, Saturday, May 20, 2017

Attack On EFCC Office Condemnable; Evidences Corruption Fighting Back -CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, unequivocally condemns the attack by unidentified gunmen on the Headquarters of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in Abuja earlier this morning.

The EFCC HQ located at Wuse Zone 7, Abuja in the early hours of Wednesday a very audacious attack by gunmen. The armed men were reported to have struck at about 5.00am shooting indiscriminately into the premises of the Commission, damaging vehicles and other properties in the process. The attackers while fleeing from counter-attack put up by EFCC’s security left behind an envelope which contained a death threat addressed to Ishaku Sharu, a senior investigator who heads the Foreign Exchange Malpractices Fraud Section in charge of corruption investigation involving several politically exposed persons and retired military men.

Mr. Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL condemned the attack with serious

vehemence, saying the Federal Government must not under any circumstance allow its anti-corruption agenda to be derailed and should not submit to the intimidation of pro-corruption elements.

He said “The forces of retrogression; agents of pro-corruption have obviously become extremely desperate in their fight-back against the present anti-corruption drive by abandoning the hitherto covert methods they have been using to frustrate the anti-graft efforts for violent and boldfaced confrontations.”

“No further evidence is needed to validate the reality of the fact that corruption is fighting back than this murderous act targeted at the EFCC by apparently incurably corrupt elements that are hell-bent on shielding themselves from justice for their roles in perpetrating corrupt practices and perpetuating corruption with impunity in Nigeria.”

“Let us note that it was only a few weeks ago that another investigator with the EFCC, Austin

CACOL Mourns The Demise Of Professor Abubakar Momoh, Director General, Electoral Institute Of INEC

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL mourns the passage of Comrade Abubakar Momoh; a Professor of Political Science, a quintessential revolutionary, a teacher of teachers, an intellectual extraordinaire, a motivator and consummate humanist, who until his death was the Director General, Electoral Institute, Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC.

Prof. Abubakar was apart from being a comrade of CACOL, a friend and a member/strong voice on theCACOL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSS, an online forum where national issues are regularly discussed and way forward in resolving the Nigerian socio-economic and political crises. He will always be a source of inspiration to us and we will remain committed to the collective struggle he lived and died for.

We wish the family, the fortitude to bear the pains of this great loss. Nigeria has definitely lost one of its very best promoters and agitators for an egalitarian society.

May the spirit of our departed comrade and that of the other martyrs of the masses' struggle for emancipation continue to haunt our exploiters and oppressors!

Viva Abubakar Momoh!!



Military should deal early with politicking soldiers, say CDHR, CACOL

In their reactions, the CDHR and CACOL said the military should urgently deal with soldiers who are fraternising with some politicians and douse the tension of a military incursion.

The CDHR President, Malachy Ugwumadu, said in an interview with one of our correspondents that Nigeria could not afford the rumours of a military infraction, let alone the action itself.

He called on the Army authorities to deal internally with such perceived indiscipline.

Ugwumadu stated, “The military incursion into politics is an era we have nullified once and for all. We all knew the struggles we had before winning this democracy.

“Our country cannot stand the rumours of a military incursion, let alone the action itself.

“I commend the Chief of Army Staff for being so intelligence-driven and he should immediately fish out the soldiers behind such acts and deal decisively with them.”

CACOL chairman, Debo Adeniran, said, “Nigeria, despite the economic recession, cannot tolerate any military intervention in power. The intelligence arm of the Army should identify soldiers fraternising with rebellious politicians and court-martial them immediately.

“The military should remember that it derives its authority from civil rule, and soldiers fraternising with politics should remember that military rule is no longer fashionable. We do not want a military that is not subject to democracy.”

Culled from The PUNCH, Thursday May 18, 2017

Akeredolu's Call For Magu's Replacement Is Reactionary And Unhelpful – CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has disagreed with the Executive Governor of Ondo State, Mr. Rotimi Akeredolu who reportedly called for the replacement of Ibrahim Magu, the acting Chairman of the Economic Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC due to the fact that the Senate has not confirmed his nomination as substantive head of the anti-graft agency.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran said “the suggestion by the governor is definitely not the way forward in the impasse that has been apparently sustained by the Senate's over Magu's confirmation as the substantive Chairman of the EFCC. It is curious hearing a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN comment on a matter that is already before the Supreme Court for adjudication in the manner he has done.”

The Ondo State Governor was reported to have called for Magu's replacement over the weekend on a radio programme, tagged 'Political Circuit', on Fresh F.M. Ibadan. On the programme, Akeredolu said the country must not be allowed to grind to a halt over the non-clearance Magu because “we have more than 1,001 people who can be chairman of the EFCC”.

Adeniran in clear disagreement with the governor's position said “with all due respect to the SAN, we do not think that the consciously Senate-generated impasse over EFCC Chairmanship can grind the country to halt. That position is nothing basically but sheer exaggeration of the situation.”

“It is a reactionary suggestion and more of a subtle support for the side of the Senate in the debacle. Stating that “we have more than 1,001 people who can be chairman of the EFCC” is trying to find the easy way out and setting a very bad precedent that will have catastrophic consequences on our National life in future. And why does the governor prefer Magu to be replaced now that the matter is before the Supreme Court rather than wait for the judicial pronouncement?”

Buhari's Anti-Corruption War Has Recorded Unprecedented Successes - CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has hailed the anti-corruption war of the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, saying it has achieved unprecedented successes.

A statement by CACOL's Media Coordinator, Mr Wale Salami, quoted the Executive Chairman, Mr Debo Adeniran, as saying that the successes of the anti-corruption war were notable despite the economic crisis in the country.

He also said the government had made progress in the area of security.

“Without doubts, a profound and objective assessment of the last two years vis-à-vis government performance indicates that Nigeria as a country may not be where it should be, it is definitely not where it was prior to the electoral-quake which kicked the previous regime of corruption out of power in the 2015 general elections,” Mr Adeniran said

“But for the 16 years of systematic despoliation of the country by the previous regimes of the erstwhile behemoth called the Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP, and accompanying task of re-fixing an entity that been so voraciously and violently raped and abused, perhaps, the change the Nigerians vehemently yearned would have recorded greater success in terms of achievement.”

Mr Adeniran, who described the anti-corruption war as the most shining achievement of the past two years, said the war “is keeping the hope of a lot of Nigerians alive as they believe their country is treading on the right path in terms of ridding the society of the Frankenstein monster called corruption, a bane that has been the major albatross to social-economic development.”

According to him, the anti-corruption battle since the ascension of Buhari to office has not left out any sector, arm of government, ethnic or religious group.

“The implementation of the Treasury Single Accounts, TSA policy has been able to block and plug hitherto existing holes of corruption in the system and thereby greatly nipping corrupt intentions and tendencies in their buds' for the dual purpose of accountability and transparency in the public sector. The anti-corruption agencies have become more enlivened and re-energised since,” he added.



“The truth is that should Magu be denied the well-deserved confirmation, hardly would any credible person be ready to come forth for the position as similar fate like will witnessing would await such a person. The Senate has refused to confirm Magu because of his impressionable role as Acting Chairman of EFCC; his boldness in confronting economic and financial crimes regardless of whose ox is gored. Many members have one corruption case or the other to contend with, including the Senate President himself. They know that he will not give in to their antics of bribery and corruption. That is the crux of the matter.”

“The background to the debacle is that the Senate understands Magu's salts deeply and the fact that he is worth it! The Senate as presently constituted from the leadership to the rank and file members, is peopled by deeply corrupt elements that deserve no space in such a quintessential Arm of government in a democracy that it is fledging. Let the truth be told!” Adeniran asserte

Beyond The Economic Gloom: The Anti-corruption War Has Achieved Unprecedented Successes, Security Of Lives And Property Has Improved

Mr. Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman of the *Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL* on the occasion of the 2-year anniversary of the President Muhammadu-led Federal government has asserted that beyond the gloomy economic situation in the country; the anti-corruption war has achieved unprecedented successes and security of lives and property has been improved upon remarkably.

“Without doubts, a profound and objective assessment of the last two years vis-à-vis government performance indicates that Nigeria as a country may not be where it should be, it is definitely not where it was prior to the electoral-quake which kicked the previous regime of corruption out of power in the 2015 general elections.” Adeniran said

“But for the 16 years of systematic despoliation of the country by the previous regimes of the erstwhile behemoth called the Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP, and accompanying task of re-fixing an entity that been so voraciously and violently raped and abused, perhaps, the change the Nigerians vehemently yearned would have recorded greater success in terms of achievement.”

“The anti-corruption war is indeed the most shining achievements of the past 2 years and it is keeping the hope of a lot of Nigerians alive as they believe their country is treading on the right path in terms of ridding the society of the Frankenstein monster called corruption, a bane that has been the major albatross to social-economic development.”

“The truth is that the increased momentum of the anti-corruption battle since the ascension of Buhari to office has increased the heat in the kitchens of corruption in the country to a very highest of degrees of centigrade than all the hitherto attempts by past regimes. Equally, the heat has been cross cutting, that is, it has not left out any sector, arm of government, ethnic or religious group in the anti-corruption drive; instead the anti-corruption fight has been taken to the doorsteps of the high and mighty including members of the Executive, the Legislature and even the Judiciary.”

“The implementation of the Treasury

Single Accounts, TSA policy has been able to block and plug hitherto existing holes of corruption in the system and thereby greatly nipping corrupt intentions and tendencies in their buds' for the dual purpose of accountability and transparency in the public sector. The anti-corruption agencies have become more enlivened and re-energized since President Buhari came and this is because of his political will and zeal for fighting corruption. They have all become more proactive with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC taking the lead under the leadership of Mr. Ibrahim Magu, the indefatigable and fearless anti-corruption icon with about 200 convictions of corruption criminals in its 'kitty' within the last 2 years.”

“The Department of State Security, DSS in October 2016 busted corrupt acts of scary and alarming proportions in the judiciary in a sting operation it carried which revealed the apparent rot in temple of justice among other shining achievements. The Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offenses Commission, ICPC in last 2 years has filed 70 cases; secured 11 convictions from 1, 569 petitions, an unprecedented achievement in the history of its existence.”

“Apart from the N204, 888, 835, 727, 25 recovered via the efforts on the anti-corruption agencies; vehicles and properties of humongous values have been seized from corrupt elements. And recently recoveries of stashed cash (in various currencies) abandoned by rogues are being made because of the imminence of their apprehensions and because they are extremely desperate to evade justice based on the punitive that awaits them should they be judiciously prosecuted.”

Speaking on the challenges of the anti-corruption drive, the CACOL leader said, “there are issues that must be addressed if the pace of the anti-graft war

will be sustained and improved upon. The lack of enabling laws, paucity of funds, inadequate manpower/personnel amongst many other factors encumber the anti-corruption drive. Agency rivalry promoted by corrupt political interests and mischief makers is also a challenge added with absence of training and re-training of personnel with commensurate emoluments.”

“Talking about security, it is self-evident that the tense atmosphere of insecurity that had enveloped the country for long has been greatly doused especially in the Northern East and South-South parts with peace rapidly returning to the erstwhile troubled communities. Other significant security related achievements include the release of 103 girls out 276 girls abducted from Chibok, Borno state in 2014 and the return of the militants from Niger Delta region to the dialogue table.”

In concluding, Adeniran, said, “fundamentally, we demand for the government to confront the skyrocketing increases in the cost of the very basic needs of life; from food to water, fuel to health services, dwindling income to the rapidly increasing unemployment and under-employment rate and etc. It is the socio-economic development of the country for the benefit of the majority of the people that must be focused upon and prioritized by government above the selfish interests of the largely extremely corrupt and wealthy political class.”

“The government must abandon its fixation on neo-liberal policies because they are basically anti-poor and pro-rich and the reality is that the policies have failed woefully in most of countries it has been practiced because they only further impoverished the people.”



Abdulrasheed Mainagate Scandals Are Main Test Of President Muhammed Buhari Anti-graft Crusade

“In a place where tradition is lacking, a striking example becomes relevant” Leon Trotsky

As much as we at the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL fully identify with the current administration rare and audacious commitment to vigorously prosecute anti-corruption campaign, we are quick to point out that President Muhammadu Buhari need to bring culprits of corrupt practices to effective justice, not just mere negotiations to recover stolen public funds. The President and his team need to step up the ante by making stigmatizing examples of culprits of corrupt and sharp conducts through diligent investigations, thorough prosecution, confiscation of properties and real time convictions in the court of law. This will not only serve as deterrent, but also a striking stigma against corruption, signaling the absolute dedication of government to vanquish corruption.



Without any equivocation, the unbridled looting of pensions funds, attendant sack, criminal conspiratorial reinstatement and correct but embarrassing re-sacking of the former Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Pensions Reforms, Abdulrasheed Maina is one major corruption case that should not treated with

Stella Oduah: Report yourself to the EFCC or be picked up like a common criminal - CACOL

“Clear Conscience fears no accusation”

The media is presently awash with report of a serving Senator representing Anambra North constituency, Ms. Stella Oduah's arrogant refusal to either acknowledge or honour invitations by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for interrogation over allegations of improprieties in managing public funds under her watch as the Minister of Aviation during the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan. The EFCC said that the agency had invited her five times in the last two years, the last set of invitations coming in the last three months but the ex-Minister dis-regarded and thwarted all their efforts.

Stella Oodua claimed that her hands are sparkling clean as she has no skeleton whatsoever in her closet. This is however contrary to the anti-corruption agency position that believes she has more than enough dirty laundry in her wardrobe even if they are not literally, skeletons. It would be recalled that her tenure as the Minister of Aviation was severally characterized with acrimonious controversies with the sector unions, Air Transport Services Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (ATSSSAN) and National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE) over the purchase of exotic Mercedes Benz cars that were extorted from parastatals in the Ministry



and other allegations of financial malfeasances. It is therefore, curious how the extortionist, corrupt Amazon could now suddenly claim “Sainthood”

CACOL strongly believes that Senator Stella Oduah does not have any

kids' glove.

BEYOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INVESTIGATION OF MAINAGATE

In recent time, the media has been awashed with contradictory, confusing and often laughable assertions on the unpardonable stories of sleaze and corruption engulfing the seemingly “invincible” former Chairman of Presidential Task Force on Pensions Funds, Abdulrasheed Maina. Ironically, there has been curious passing round of the bucks. One of such silly infamies claims that the Federal Government is hampered to take up Maina case because the National Assembly is already investigating the matter. This smacked like a grand scheme to find soft landing for all those that are obviously indictable for this national disgrace, we are certain that a thorough forensic investigation would consume many persons. The other comical claim is that Maina has since disappeared from Nigeria and cannot be brought to book. That. some powerful allies seem to be hiding the above the law crook is an alluring conclusion one would deduce.

As of today, the Nigeria Senate has conducted its investigation into the matter but with a veil of secrecy. An ad-hoc Committee of the Senate set up to investigate the controversial reinstatement and the embarrassing promotion of Maina in the civil service of the Federal Government invited the Attorney General, Abubakar Malami (SAN) and the Minister for Interior, Abdulrahman Danbazau but the session were held in camera in the office the Committee Chairman. We strongly believe openness and transparency to the media and the general public is integral part of the campaign against corruption.

However, the House of Representatives is reported to have slated the commencement of its ad-hoc Committee for Wednesday, 22nd November, 2017. It promised that the session on Maina's ill-handling of pensions funds would be broadcast live by Nigeria Television Authority. The Committee also invited Abdulrahman Danbazau, the Head of Service to the Federation, Mrs. Winfred Oyo-Ita, the acting Chaiman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu and Chairman of ICPC, Prof BolajiOwasanoye assuring Nigerians that Maina would come out of hiding to face the Committee.

CACOL therefore salutes the courage of the House of Representatives in slating the Committee with live coverage. We

Indeed, the situation in Nigeria captures a group of people who consciously sacrifice the future of its younger generations, not only through alienating them from political power or economic strangulation but in concrete terms by butchering their dreams, their future and ensuring permanent crisis of confidence as they are forced to grow under acute insecurities of lives and properties. Nigeria has lost more youth to curable or containable health malaise, hunger and starvation, road accidents, fire disasters, robbery attacks, armed banditry, official security forces' brutalities, kidnappings, herdsman and farmer carnages than countries in civil strife and wars.

Yet, the country has the highest cadence of recycled leaders who keep mouthing that children/Youth" are leaders of tomorrow. The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL and its ally organizations including the Child Help In Legal Defence Of Rights to Education in Nigeria, CHILDREN Project and Action Team Against Conscription and Kidnap, ATTACK strongly calls on all well-meaning Nigerians, progressives world-wide and the youth of our great country that our children deserves to live today!

The Boko Haram terrorist sect, which like a cat with nine lives has evaded two successive administrations; the murderous group government which has variously claimed to have atomized its reared ugly fangs again on 21st February, 2018 struck by kidnapping 110 students of Government Girls Secondary School, Dapchi in Yobe State. This is reminiscent of a similar kidnap of over Two Hundred students in Chibok, Borno State in 2014. These incidents and many others exposed the nation's weak care for its children and absolute neglect of this generation of Nigerians. It is trite to emphasize here that many children are languishing away in Internally Displaced Persons, (IDPs) Camps all over the country, as a matter of fact; a girl child recently cried out that she wakes up every morning to bemoan the fact that she can no longer continue her studies. Many others kids across the Nigerian landscape even where there are no manifest security threats can go to schools because many state governments are owing public sector workers and their tutors have embarked on indefinite strike actions while the economic downturn have compelled

Abduction of 110 Dapchi Girls by Boko Haram: let our Children live today not in a borrowed future – CACOL

“If you think Education is too expensive, try Ignorance”

many parents to withdraw their wards from schools. We are alarmed and scared on what would be the future of our society when we refuse to commit social investment on the future of coming generations? We see a country that would face monumental dysfunction, decay, stagnation, violence, degradation and inevitably collapse into a bedlam if emergency intervention scheme is not initiated to rescue the future of our youths and children.

In the country today, many young persons are victims of sexual abuse, debasements and ritual killings which show a society that has lost its soul at the altar of morbid search for filthy money and power at the expense of its



children's future. The spate of kidnappings is further exacerbating the hollowness of the country's moral fibre particularly when we examine how we dis-regard the education sector.

Beyond the continuous negative slide of education and lack of social and political will to stem the tides, belligerencies in the country is further compounding the crisis. Recently, lecturers of University of Maiduguri who have been kidnapped since 2017 were released after negotiations brokered with Boko Haram by International Red Cross Society with some of them clamouring for jobs outside the North-East regions. If teachers feel unsafe to live in a region, is the future of the children of that area not totally foreclosed and mortgaged? In the same token, some wives of armed forces kidnapped since last were released and this cannot but get any rational person to ponder on what remains of a home when the mother is taken away, this is the first point of social education and training to mould children who

are supposed to be the future of our nation.

Holistically, this insecurity threat is dangerous to the survival of our country, requisite attention must be paid to remedy if not eliminate it. As much as we note the readiness of the present administration to rescue the Dapchi 110 students as against denial of the Chibok kidnap by the immediate past regime, we totally condemn the buck passing by the Military hierarchy. The military command was fingered by the State Governor to have withdrawn its troops from the streets of Yobe State just before the kidnapping occurred. Though it defended itself that it handed over to the Police which contended by the Commissioner of Police in the state.

This issue is too huge a threat to be handled with kid's glove. We call on President

Muhammed Buhari to demonstrate that he is a father and leader who cares about the future of the younger generation by ordering a comprehensive probe of the failure of security apparatuses in Yobe State as it concerns this tragic episode of kidnap.

We make bold to assert that if the security forces had been alive to its responsibilities, this kidnap would have been foiled or in the least, the kids would be

rescued almost immediately. The Government should also invest on enhancing security infrastructure as well social standards that make life more meaningful for security personnel and citizens respectively.

We are extremely disturbed that the armed hordes promoting violence, kidnaps, and brigandage in the North East region are migrants infiltrating the country through the porous borders with neighbourhood countries like Chad, Niger, Sudan an Cameroon. This is a grave national security threat which our country cannot afford to toy with.

We empathize with the families of the victims of the Dapchi kidnap as they grapple with the trauma of the abduction of their loved ones and we seriously charge the FG to leave no stone unturned in putting in the extremely needed concerted efforts to rescue the girls to reunite with their definitely traumatized parents and relations.

Return Of Exploitative Toll Gate-cruel Burden On Nigerians

The Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) has announced the plans of the Federal Government to construct more than Thirty Eight new toll gates at the same spots where they were demolished during the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo. He told the Senate Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) that the tolls would be built through private concessionaires and fully commercialized.

This is an unfortunate retrogressive slip. Toll gates are part of the legacies of military mis-adventures into governance in the country, a drain pipe for

It suffices to note that Mr. Fashola has experimented with this idea when he was at the helms of Lagos State Government. He constructed the toll gates on the Ikoyi-Lekki link bridge for instance which eloquently testifies that this project are mere grand designs to extort motorist and never to ameliorate deteriorating transport system. In a more civilized, advanced democracy, the Mr. Fashola and this administration would be taken up to justify what the various taxes and levies imposed on the hapless citizens are use for, if tolls are now been constructed by private firms and fully commercialized against the provisions of our extant constitution.



transport stakeholders and relevant government agencies to forcefully speak out against the return of toll gates and extorting toll fares on our roads.

NIGERIA SLIPS IN TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX: TRUE REFLECTION OF A SYSTEMIC COLLAPSE AND A WAKE UP CALL

Anti-corruption global watchdog, Transparency International (TI) just released its 2017 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) which ranked Nigeria 148 out of 180 countries with score point of 28 out of 100. Nigeria score point is far below the average figure for the Sub-Saharan region put at 32 and reveals that the present administration has not made any significant progress in its avowed anti-corruption crusade; in the 2016 rankings, Nigeria scored 28, in 2015, it scored 26, in 2014, the country scored 27 and 25 in 2013 while in 2012, the country's scored was 27 points.

CACOL consider this report as very timely for Nigeria to take stock of all the variable factors that are or may be responsible for this rating especially since CPI is a major instrument that prospective foreign direct investors would evaluate before any concrete decision is made on where to invest. Low ranking presupposes a State that is unstable and unsafe for investment. Nigeria is presently in dire need to woo huge investment to re-energise its industries and for infrastructural development.

The CPI rating should not be a basis for apprehension or lamentation but to accept the stark reality as a true reflection of the contemporary state of affairs in the country as well as a near scientific exact indication of what should be done to entrench transparent, good governance with zero tolerance for corruption and other social vices. Thus far, succeeding administration in the country have been

attacking corruption superficially without fundamental up-rooting of its deep tentacles largely because of lack of political will to severely punish perpetrators and setting deterrents. The first and most germane factor in our continued negative slip in the CPI is intrinsically linked with the collapse of the national economy. The adoption of neo-liberal economic policy have only



President Muhammadu Buhari

succeeded in the country experiencing one economic crisis after the other; from the burden of bogus debt and attendant austerity measures, to perennial, acute multiple and compounded recession, inflation, depression, irascible crude oil market up to total neglect and de-industrialisation of the country's economy. This economic crisis has foisted a

Nigerians are presently suffering under the heavy yoke of very, bad and deplorable roads across the nooks and crannies of the country. It is the expectation of the public that the Minister should been queried by the Senate on why FERMA has gone into self-induced permanent sleep under his watch while our roads have become death traps with high frequency of accidents leading to monumental loss of goods, properties and lives. It instructive to note with strong condemnation that out of N25Billion allocated to FERMA in the 2017 budget, only N800Million has thus far been used even as the year comes to an end.

CACOL calls on all well meaning Nigerians to be weary of the antics of the smooth talking Minister as it is manifestly clear that he is yet to deliver any tangible result in any of the three critical ministries under him. It is trite to point his announced housing projects which have not taken off are never designed to provide low cost housing for the mass of working and toiling people, not even for the decimated Nigeria middle class but to shelter a few, over-indulged elite class. The promised improvement in the generation and distribution electric power remains a delusional mirage. There is no doubt that Mr. Fashola is pushing his three-star ministry along the same path he trekked while governing Nigeria, creating a haven for elites to viciously exploit the masses who are gated off in slum suburbs.

The return of toll gates and exploitative fares under the guise of privatization and commercialization agenda would unleash unmitigated hardships on Nigerians particularly less privileged, informal sector workers whose empowerments are needed to re-tunic the ailing economy. We call on all well meaning Nigerians,

perpetual regime of cutting corners and perversion of standards on the country, which is antithetical to conducive investment climate.

Another important dialectical factor is the aggravated insecurity in practically all facets of the country. The Transparency International CPI usually factor in question of security of lives and properties, conscription of democratic rights to freedom of information as having direct relations with incidences of corruption. Nigeria has high incidences of security challenges across virtually all its geo-political zones; the most recent dastardly, mindless herdsman killings, the terror force of the Boko Haram in the North East, the separatist clamour of Independent Peoples' Organisation of Biafra (IPOB) and Niger-Delta Militants in the South-East and South-South respectively as well as urban armed bandits, violent gangs in the South-West are signposts of instability within the polity, a vibrant breeding and feeding ground for corruption.

If Nigeria must make significant improvement in its anti-corruption ratings, it is not enough for Mr. President to profess the creed, the entire country must be seen to be manifestly pursuing the strides towards achieving the anti-corruption crusade. There must be no hiding place for corrupt individuals and organisation. More-importantly, we must accept a dire need for paradigm shift, because so long as we run a western-countries' imposed socio-economic and political system, corruption would pervade our landscape. Only a fundamental system change can drastically reduce if not eliminate corruption in the country

CACOL warns governors not to divert Paris Club loan

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has called on Governors to make judicious use of the Paris Club loan Refund recently ordered to be released to the states by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Buhari had directed the Finance ministry to release the fund to the states specifically for the settlement of unpaid salaries and pension arrears of their workers.

He said, “I will not rest until I address those issues that affect our people. One of these basic things is the issue of salaries. It is most important that workers are able to feed their families, pay rent and school fees, then other things can follow.”

Reacting, however, the Executive Chairman, Mr. Debo Adeniran, said the news of the release of the second tranche of the Paris Club loan Refund enthralled the organization. He, however, expressed fear and suspicion concerning the possible mismanagement and misappropriation or outright embezzlement of the funds by some Governors.

CACOL in a statement forwarded to DAILY POST

said, “we are impressed by the decision of the President to order the release of the loan Refund and the further instruction given by him that Governors should make sure that the funds gets to the end beneficiaries. But we recall the bail-out funds given out to some states previously by the Federal government never got to be used for the purpose they were meant to serve, that is, to pay

of economic hardship were mismanaged by some state governors which increased the sufferings of the end beneficiaries at the end of the day.”

Adeniran further highlighted the unfairness and wickedness of governors who divert or mismanage funds meant for pensioners who die on daily basis while queuing for their pensions or workers who are left to hungers because of unpaid arrears and salaries. “Such funds are supposed to be 'sacred' given the fact that the beneficiaries had served the country so loyally and diligently for years only to die of hunger at the hands of the operators of the states,” he averred. He concluded that “The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offence Commission, ICPC and other anti-corruption agencies should be pro-active by keeping their lenses on the movement and handling of the funds and how it is been allocated in each state. This will help in reducing the impunity with which some the governors divert, mismanage or embezzle funds meant for specific purposes leading to socio-economic crisis that increases the sufferings of the ordinary Nigerian.”

arrears of workers' salaries. The funds which were given to governors then in order to help people out



Lagos Inland Waterways Dispute: Let The Law Run Its Full Course – CACOL

Mr. Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has called on the Federal

Ministry of Mines and Steel Development allow the law to take its full course with regard to the recent Appeal Court ruling on the dispute between the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) and the Lagos Waterways Authority (LASWA), over who has the constitutional power to control the waterways in Lagos State.

He was reacting to the reported directive by Mohammed Abass, a Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry which gave its licensed dredgers in the state to go about their businesses without hindrance in spite of the July 18 decision of the Lagos Division of the Court of Appeal which clearly vested on the state government the power to control the “intra-inland waterways.

“To put it bluntly, it will amount to total disrespect for the rule of law, if the Lagos state government yields to the directive of by the Federal Ministry. It can only breed anarchy in the system. Disregard for the laws is quite antithetical to the core values of democracy and such antics should definitely not emanate from a democratic government that is bounded to defend the laws of the land.”

“We encourage the Federal Ministry to pursue the lawful option which is to

approach the Supreme Court for ultimate adjudication if it's disgruntled enough with the ruling of the appellate court. This is much more reasonable than letting the dispute degenerate into anarchy.”

“Beyond the dispute between the Federal Ministry and Lagos state government, we haste to resound our position that dredging in the inland waterways and sand-filling on the coastal lines should be halted as they are injurious to the environment ultimately.”

“We believe that at the heart of the causes of the recent floods in Lagos can be linked with the nature of the relationship the government (State and Federal) has maintained with the environment in terms of planning and policies for infrastructural

developm ent. Basically, the approach has been inconsiderate of the environmental consequences of dredging and sand-filling activities. Sustaining these activities is a recipe for avoidable environment disasters.” Adeniran averred



DR. KAYODE FAYEMI
Min. of Mines & Steel Development

GWARZO: CACOL visits EFCC, defends corruption Petition Against Suspended SEC DG

Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL), a non-political, non-religious, and non-profit making organization, on Monday 4, December 2017 visited the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to defend its petition against the Director General of Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr. Mournir Haliru Gwarzo's.

The Executive Chairman, CACOL, Comrade. Debo Adeniran, who spent exactly one hour, 10.00am – 11.00am this Monday with the Head of investigating team at the Capital Market Unit of the EFCC in Garki Zone II of Abuja in the Federal Capital Territory, said “we responded to the invitation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC today to adopt (defend) our petition against Mr. Gwarzo. We are delighted that the EFCC responded promptly, and is enthusiastic to investigate the subject of our petition. We intend to follow through with this process and we will not be distracted by all the attempts by Gwarzo and his cronies to make us back down drawing on absurd and unconnected straws to whip up sentiment in the media. Those who know us know, we do not just take up a cause, when we do, we are tenacious in our pursuit and we approach our campaigns with independence of mind.”

Adeniran further disclosed that, the allegations against Mr. Gwarzo have been before various people in government for months unattended to until CACOL took up the issue. “We commend the Finance Minister, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun for the courage to take the issue up after others have looked the other way for months. We urge her to be steadfast in the face of various attempts to blackmail her into dropping the investigations into the allegations. If she musters the tenacity to follow through on this

investigation as she did with fighting the cabal behind the ghost workers who almost bled the nation to death with false wage bills, then history would be kind to her.

Comrade Adeniran further disclosed that even as CACOL was preparing to make its defence appearance before the EFCC, it has just received more mind boggling documents relating to various corrupt practices by the Mr. Gwarzo.

It will be recalled that the organization, CACOL, petitioned President Muhammadu Buhari, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the relevant Committees in the Senate and House of Representatives and the various anti corruption agencies to order a thorough audit of the finances of the Commission under Mr. Gwarzo following the allegations of corruption.

The DG is alleged to have engaged in series of anti-establishment manipulations to enrich himself through acts that are at variance with civil service rules and regulations. It was alleged that Mr Haliru Gwarzo has been running SEC as his personal business and appoints companies with links to him and some of his cronies in office as contractors who provide services to the Commission.

Some of the Companies listed to have links with Mr. Gwarzo, his wife and other cronies are:

(1.) Outbound Investment Ltd, RC NO. 807317 (2.) Medusa Investments Limited, RC NO. 326829 (3.) Northwind Environmental Services. REG NO BN2389176 (4.) Micro-Technologies LTD RC NO. 173805 (5.) Tida International Ltd RC NO. 26414 (6.) Outlook Communications (7.) AcromacNig Ltd RC

NO. 10687864 (8.) Balfort International Investment Ltd RC NO. 109153 (9.) Interactiven Worldwide Nigeria Ltd RC NO. 779442.

(2.) On January 2, 2013, Mr. Mournir Haliru Gwarzo, was appointed an Executive Commissioner in the Securities and Exchange Commission for a four-year tenure. Before the expiration of the four-year deal, Gwarzo was elevated as the Director General of the Commission on May 22, 2015. But consequent upon resumption of office as the Director General of SEC, Mr. Gwarzo, ordered the payment of a severance benefit to himself to the tune of N104,851,154.94 (One hundred and four million, eight hundred and fifty-one thousand, one hundred and fifty-four Naira and ninety-four kobo.

Comrade Debo Adeniran restated the call on President Muhammadu Buhari to take immediate steps to constitute a Board for the Securities and Exchange Commission as provided for in the extant laws establishing the Commission. “The Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 2007 which gives the Commission its current powers also made a provision for the appointment of a nine (9) member Board to be headed by a Chairman. The idea of the Board is to, amongst other things, ensure that no Director General of the Commission can become a law unto himself or herself and act without appropriate checks by the Board” President Buhari must ensure this is done without further delay,” he said.

Considering the high probability of atrocities being committed unchecked under the present circumstance in which the SEC has functioned without a Board, CACOL called on President Muhammadu Buhari through the Finance Minister to order a thorough audit of the finances of the Commission and penalize everyone found guilty of fraudulent activities.

President Buhari should stop EFCC and DSS from tearing each other's jungular “A House Divided Against Itself Can Never Stand ”

In less than a month, there are several reports of incidences of inter-agencies clashes especially between officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Department of State Securities (DSS) in a manner lacking all the paraphernalia of civil governance guarded by entrenched decorum, protocols, rules and patriotic responsibilities.

In a brazen display of national disgrace and embarrassment, the EFCC and DSS flexed muscles in gangsteric style when the anti-corruption agency wanted to arrest a former Director General of DSS, Ekpenyong Ita, and the same fiasco was displayed at the residence of the former Director General of Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), Mr. Ayo Oke. The operatives of the two security bodies lay armed siege against each others, brandishing sophisticated weapons, taking pictures like yoyo kids for hours.

This act in itself is not only condemnable but it is



symptomatic of a larger ailment afflicting our nation. Nigeria is held at captive in a permanent siege by the bankrupt and degenerate ruling class who do not respect the constitution and the citizens aspirations better life and socio-economic advancement in the same way the DSS and EFCC are pursuing a grand design to stalemate President Muhammadu Buhari anti-corruption campaigns. More importantly, the security forces in the country are not suffering from bringing forward the military mentality during the military absolute despoliation of governance in the country but act according to their conception. The security force in Nigeria were established by colonial

dispensation as “ Forces of Occupation”, decades after, we are yet to purge
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The three-man committee set-up by the presidency over nia DG and SGF's cases is a waste of time and resource - CACOL

At the *Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership*, CACOL, we believe in equity and justice. As an anti-corruption advocacy group, our number one agitation is for thoroughness in the process of unraveling the mystery surrounding this lump sum that has become object of controversy in recent time.

While we commend the action of the Federal Government for showing interest in tackling corruption by suspending the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Mr. Babachir Lawal and the Director General, DG of the National Intelligence Agency, NIA, we will sound a note of warning that ample seriousness should be injected into the process. Yes, the AGF has not really impressed many Nigerians by his shoddy handling of issues concerning the issue of the SGF in the past, especially in his conclusions that misled the presidency to believe that Babachir Lawal was not given fair hearing by the Senate committee.

This is where it was of public knowledge that Lawal only sent his secretary to the senators when he was invited and when given the second opportunity, he went to obtain court injunction against Senate invitation. It is our belief that if Babachir has any good defense for his action he would have been in a hurry to meet with the Senate committee to clear his name. But we think this is another chance for the AGF to redeem his image by proving critics wrong that he is capable of doing thorough job. Nigeria is passing through a period where it is very difficult to trust public officials with accountability and fair play, particularly when money is involved. So, for the AGF to really restore his deserved respect among Nigerians, he must go the whole hog to ensure nothing is left undone to get to the root of this matter and ensure that no criminal is allowed to succeed in evading the cause of justice, even if it entails encouraging the FG to reassemble more credible Nigerians to join him as think-tank in his functions with a view to securing the best results.

But by and large, the body language we are getting from the FG of recent is of a government now buckling down to serious business. We trust that the Vice President, as a man of proven integrity himself, must have assembled a team he believed would midwife foolproof investigation and come up with impeccable findings. The country is at the edge of a precipice and I don't think this government has the time to elongate keeping those who are not in same spirit with it in office.

There's no need for the YemiOsinbajo's Panel since the agencies established by the Nigerian laws are available and capable of handling the cases at hand.

The trio of VP, CJN, NSA all have works of national importance to do; the VP for example has a lot of executive roles to play in supporting the President who is aged and cannot do much runnings around; while the AGF has a lot of work to do prosecuting cases for the FG, supervising the Anti-Corruption Agencies and other Law Enforcement bodies too and advising the executive on legal cum judicial issues.

The NSA on the other hand has a lot of security issues to monitor and tackle like the Boko-Haram insurgency, Southern Kaduna killings, Militancy in NigerDelta, Ogun and Lagos States, Herdsmen invasion of several communities and several other

security issues he needs to monitor and advise the FG on.

However, while we hopeful of a thorough job, we will call on government not to delay in dispensing justice when the crimes are established by the first-instance detectors; in this case, Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Crimes, ICPC for the former SGF and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for the former DG NIA.

For instance, the case of Ambassador Femi Oke is both an Economic and a Financial Crime, so his case is expected to be transferred to the EFCC. The money he claimed belonged to the NIA, is not in the know of the President who is the chief security officer of the Federal Republic, it was not brought to the notice of the NSA whose duties include advising the relevant security agencies on how to handle security issues especially how one agency will not thwart "covert operations" of the other if such is of importance to the security of the Federal Republic neither do CBN, EFCC and even members of the NIA with which the former NIA boss hold meetings on regular basis.

By hoarding money (both local and Foreign currencies)Oke I deemed to have committed a form of Economic Sabotage as he has denied people who need money for legitimate business access to fund. Keeping government money in his wife's private apartment is financial crime for which we believe he and his wife, who is not a staff or operative of NIA as well as his other accomplices, which may include past president and staffers of CBN who could have aided illegal access of MrOke to mint fresh local and foreign currencies, should also be invited, interrogated and if necessary, prosecuted and adequately punished to serve as deterrent to others of their ilk.

BabachirLawal's case on the other hand should be handed to the ICPC because his case bothers on Conflict of Interest, nepotism and

misappropriation of Funds. He should have no business awarding any contract at all not to talk of doing such for his own company at immorally inflated costs thus compounding the debilitating situations of the IDPs who the PINE project was meant to salvage. His action should be deemed as war crime or man inhumanity to man.

The Presidency should not use bureaucracy of the panel to buy time for these suspected Criminals of the Federal Republic to perfect their strategies of evading justice nor give anyone a softlanding benefits. If such is the reason for Osinbajo panel, it will rubbish the whole anti-corruption fight that the Buhari-led Administration is known for as well as the name and records the President, Vice-President and other cabinet members involved have built for themselves over the years.



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CACOL Okays FG's adoption of Special Courts to try Corrupt, kidnap cases

corrupt elements are fighting back using every means available including lapses in our laws to evade justice. Just like in the case of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission versus Ademola and his cohort, EFCC and Patience Jonathan's case and other similar cases. The plethora of corruption cases that the ongoing anti-corruption drive has thrown up calls for reforms in the existing judicial system to ensure that the efforts to rid Nigeria of sharp practices bears fruits.”

He said the idea by the FG to establish special courts for corruption and kidnap was a step ahead of criminals who had always deployed different tactics

to evade justice.

“As corruption fights backs viciously, the logical response is to; lawfully remove all the encumbrances on the path of the anti-corruption drive which corruption criminals cleverly use to wriggle through the labyrinths of the existing judicial system to escape justice.

“We at CACOL welcome this initiative, but the proactive steps must being taken to achieve the establishment of the Special Courts, particularly at this time when the FG seems to be losing grip of its anti-corruption drive seem,” he said.

CACOL berates FG over reversed position on supply of capmi meters by DISCOs

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, is dismayed at the back-pedaled position recently taken by the Federal Government over the much talked-about free supply of the Credited Advance Payment for Metering Initiative (CAPMI METERS by the DISCOs). The directive then for the supply of the CAPMI meters was solely to replace the old-fashioned and exploitative billing system that could only belong to the analogue era. It was purportedly aimed at responding positively to the seemingly unending cries of the average Nigerian consumer of electricity. So quite expectedly consumers received the news with so much excitement, hoping that their sufferings would soon end.



MR. BABATUNDE FASHOLA, SAN
Min. for Power, Works and Housing

That Nigerians have overtime been bearing the pains of poor electricity supply and with no hope of relief in sight has become a situation that's extremely intolerable and unacceptable. The apparently extortionist-prone billing system which allows the distribution companies (DISCOs) to charge consumers for services not rendered while applying all forms of arm-twisting methods to extort money from the latter must be halt. There is no logic in transferring consumers paying for meters at all. It is akin to asking them to pay for meters at fuelling stations.

When sometime last year, the Minister of Works, Housing and Power, Mr. Raji Fashola came out to direct the DISCOs to supply the CAPMI Meters, otherwise known as Pre-paid Meters, FREE OF CHARGE, to their customers, consumers generally heaved a sigh of relief from the massively condemned arbitrary billing system that lacks all rational justifications.

Consumers generally have reasoned that, even though they are helpless over their fate in regard to the consistently deplorable state of power supply, implementing the Minister's directive would at least relieve them of having to pay for services not enjoyed. Following this directive it was observed that some DISCOs went out to effect the installation of the CAPMI meters especially in some parts of the city of Lagos but for a relatively insignificant fraction of the populace.

However the exercise was short-lived; consumers kept wondering why. No reasons were given by the DISCOS for the sudden discontinuation until the Minister, issued further directive that the exercise should wind down “because of the distrust and disaffection it was creating between consumers and DISCOS with government caught in the middle with numerous customers who paid for meters that were not delivered within the approved time.” He is also quoted as hinging his action on the excuse that the action has not violated the Electric Power Sector Reform Act in any way. What does this therefore mean? Well it simply means that the DISCOs can continue to exploit the helpless consumers at will!

Record also has it that, even though customers out of frustrations had indicated their readiness to pay for their meters, the meters were still not made available. The contradiction in the position of relevant parties in the whole thing is particularly disturbing: while Fashola maintained that meters could be procured from any source so long as the source meets the approved specification and that government has not vested the monopoly of supplies to the DISCOS, we reliably gathered that approval of meters for supply lies squarely with the relevant DISCOs and it's most unlikely that any DISCO would want to accept meters brought from elsewhere.

Clearly, we see what the government has done here as sheer abdication of its responsibility to the people and a brazen act of irresponsibility and insensitivity to the plight of the same people that voted it into power.

Indisputably, with this unfortunate policy reversal on the part of government in regard to this issue, majority of electricity consumers who are still connected

with the old exploitative 'crazy bill' system, would remain at the mercy of the merciless DISCOs as their hope of a mass supply of the much desired CAPMI meters may remain hanging in abeyance for a long time to come. The DISCOs make far more money in the 'crazy bill' system than the CAPMI. They rather would prefer operating the archaic method which swells their bank accounts.

CACOL therefore demands that government revert to its former directive that the CAPMI meters be supplied to all and sundry if only to demonstrate to Nigerians. The attempt to 'rob Peter to pay Paul' is not acceptable and must be rejected by Nigerians. Quintessentially, it must be stated that this situation has fundamentally been thrown up by the fraudulent privatization of the power sector. This crisis and the associated ones all stem from the fallacy of 'government has no business in business' (market fundamentalism). The mode of governance where the commanding heights of economy such the power sector are handled to private hands who are majorly cronies of the corrupt ruling class that been lorded over the socio-political and economic spaces in the country in successive governments since the incursion of neo-liberalism in the late 80s.

CACOL Okays FG's adoption of Special Courts to try corrupt, kidnap cases

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has commended the Federal Government on its plans to adopt special Court for trying cases bothering on financial Crimes, kidnapping among others, as recommended by the presidential Advisory Committee against Corruption, PACAC.

The Executive Chairman, Mr.Debo Adeniran while responding to this said that the idea was absolutely a welcomed one as this had also been its stance at CACOL.

He said, “we must commend the Federal Government for deeming it right to follow the recommendation of PACAC. Indeed a special court is needed to help in the anti-corruption fight since the Judiciary has become treacherous.

“CACOL have consistently advocated for reforms in the judicial system, including the creation of Special courts for trying corruption cases in order to facilitate the enabling environment for the successful prosecution of the Anti-Corruption war. Several cogent reasons abound for the inevitable need for



Special courts for corruption cases and some reforms in our laws.”

Mr Adeniran reiterated that “As a matter of fact, since the kitchen became hotter for corruption, criminals based on the ongoing war against corruption,

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PHOTO SPEAKS



NIGHT VIEW OF NEWLY COMMISSIONED ABULE-EGBA FLYOVER BY LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT



VEHICLES WADE THROUGH A FLOODED ROAD NEAR GRAILAND/IJU BRIDGE AFTER DOWNPOUR IN LAGOS STATE. Source: Daily Trust, Tuesday, May 2, 2017



LOCALS FIXING THE KUDZUM BRIDGE DESTROYED BY BOKO HARAM IN ADAMAWA STATE: Source PREMIUM TIMES Saturday, January 27, 2018



VEHICLES WADE THROUGH A FLOODED JOJU BUS-STOP, SANGO AFTER DOWNPOUR IN OGUN STATE



ABANDONED REFUSE IN ONE OF THE STREET, AT KOSOFE, LGA, LAGOS STATE Source: The PUNCH THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017



FLOODED OGIJO ROAD FOLLOWING A DOWNPOUR IN SAGAMU, OGUN STATE . SOURCE: NIGERIAN TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017



DEMOLITION AT AGEGE PEN CINEMA, LAGOS STATE



CROWDED FILLING STATION DEW TO FUEL SCARCITY. Source: Premium Times Saturday, January 27, 2018

PHOTO SPEAKS



MAIDAN COMMUNITY IN KETU-IKOSI L.G.A, LAGOS STATE SOURCE: NIGERIAN TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017



MOTORIST AND PEDESTRIANS STUCK AFTER A DOWNPOUR AT THE AGBADO END IJOKO ROAD, IFO, OGUN STATE SOURCE: THE PUNCH, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017



BAD PORTION ON LAGOS-IBADAN EXPRESSWAY



THE ABANDONED ORILE IGANMU-BADAGRY 10-LANE ROAD



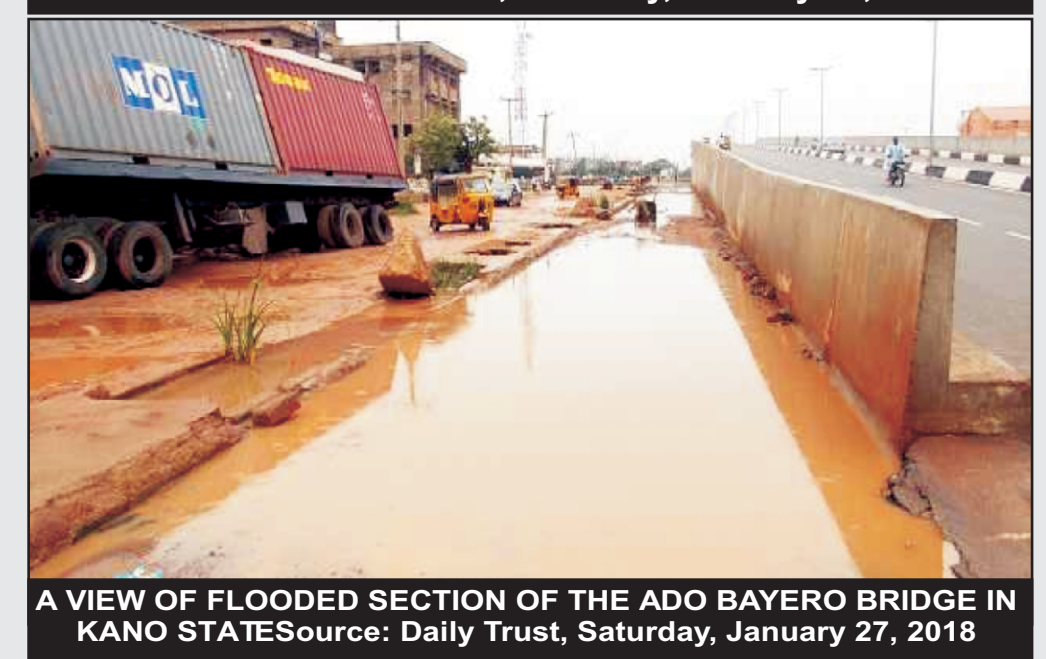
THE MAKESHIFT MAIDAN BRIDGE AT PATELE COMMUNITY IN KETU-IKOSI L.G.A, LAGOS STATE SOURCE: NIGERIAN TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017



ASHABI COLE STREET, IN AGIDINGBI, IKEJA LAGOS DESERTED BY MOTORIST AFTER ELECTRIC POLES COLLAPSE. SOURCE: THE PUNCH, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017



ABANDONED AJAOKUTA STEEL PLANT. Source: Premium Times, Saturday, January 27, 2018



A VIEW OF FLOODED SECTION OF THE ADO BAYERO BRIDGE IN KANO STATESource: Daily Trust, Saturday, January 27, 2018