

CACOL Hails Arraignment Of Rivers State SSG For Corruption

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has lauded the arraignment of the Secretary to Rivers State Government, Mr Kenneth Kobani for money laundering.

those who have being put in positions of public trust must rise above board by accounting for every penny in their care.

In a statement issued by Mr Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL, he noted that the six-count charge brought against the duo of Kobani and one Samuel Okpoko, bordering on money laundering involving a sum of N750m,



Mr Kenneth Kobani

was another bold step in tackling the hydra-headed monster of corruption in the country. It is noteworthy that the exhibits in this case are part of the infamous \$115m, Diezani Alison-Madueke scam which were clearly proceeds of corruption.

Mr. Debo Adeniran stated that, "For every million Naira or Dollar stolen or misappropriated by any Government official and their cronies, millions of Nigerians are directly deprived of access to education, good roads, electricity and other social amenities and the right to life through good Medicare. This is why like Caesar's wife;

"We commend EFCC and ICPC for their patriotic zeal to rid our land of evils of corruption and provide the accused the opportunity to clear their names if they are innocent of the charges proffered against them. We also advise that this case and many others like them should be clinically,

diligently and fairly prosecuted and concluded. Those who turns out as culprits should be made to suffer for their wicked acts while proceeds of their crime should be completely retrieved and repatriated to their original source to relief long-suffering Nigerians and serve as a deterrent to others. If however, they are found innocent of the charges, they should be promptly released and adequately compensated for the moral and material damages they could have suffered. It will also send a strong signal that no matter how long it takes, the seemingly slow-grinding wheel of justice will eventually catch up with whoever is involved in corruption crimes."

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, 08037194969, 08023226276. E-mail: cacolc@yahoo.com, cacol@thehumanitycentre.com, Website: www.corruptionwatchng.com, www.cacol.thehumanitycentre.com. Acting Editor: Aghagbobi Kenna

CORRUPTION is any act of DISHONESTY



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\$16b Power Projects: CACOL Calls for Probe to Ascertain Actual Amount Obj Spent and Culpability

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has received news about the allegations of mismanagement of \$16b through power projects during ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo's tenure with circumspection while calling for the setting up of a probe panel to officially ascertain how much was actually spent, on what and where, and bring culprits to book, if any.



Mr Debo Adeniran, CACOL Executive Chairman, recalled how the nation was taken aback when under the erstwhile president's successor in office, President Umar Yar' Adua, it was alleged that Obasanjo's government had spent about \$16b on electricity without anything substantial on ground after his tenure. But a probe panel set up by the then National Assembly exculpated ex-President Obasanjo of any wrongdoing while insisting that the figure

was unduly exaggerated. This much has been reiterated by the spokesman to Olusegun Obasanjo, Mr Kehinde Akinyemi, who revealed that Chief Olusegun Obasanjo never claimed to have spent the banded sum of \$16b on power projects. He also claimed that aside from the allegation, what was

spent could be seen in the seven National Integrated Power Projects and 18 (eighteen) gas turbines. Mr Akin Oshuntokun, spokesman for the Obasanjo-led Coalition for Nigeria Movement, CNM, also echoed a similar view by pointing out that based on several investigations that had been carried out on the matter and reports compiled, it was clear Obasanjo only spent \$6.3bn (Six Billion, Three Hundred Million Dollars) on the power sector throughout his eight-year tenure.

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Nyame's Conviction: CACOL Lauds Judiciary, Calls for Speedy Trial of Pending Corruption Cases

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has hailed an Abuja High Court for sentencing the former Governor of Taraba State, Rev. Jolly Nyame, to 14 years' imprisonment for looting N1.6b.



will catch up with them”.

“We are overly delighted with the deterrent punishment meted out to the Ex-Governor. The anti-corruption war has before now been trapped in an endless loop of inconclusive

cases, and we hope this victory against Nyame would facilitate the speedy and diligent trials and convictions of pending corruption cases”.

“We urge the present administration to treat anyone with a corruption petition with all seriousness. Prosecution of corruption suspects shouldn't be slowed down or halted without diligent investigation due to political expediency”.

In a press statement issued by CACOL's Executive Chairman, Mr, Debo Adeniran the group described Nyame's conviction as a further reassurance that our Judiciary and President Muhammadu Buhari mean business in ensuring that no corruption culprit, no matter how highly-placed, goes unpunished.

Adeniran recalled that Nyame, whose trial started in 2007 but was stalled by his team of lawyers who filed many applications to frustrate the efforts of the prosecution, was finally found guilty and convicted of 27 out of the 41 charges leveled against him.

According to him: “It is gratifying to note that the anti-corruption crusade is gradually exposing those who have been hiding under the cover of religion, political power or social status. We have also seen others resort to one political alignment or the other, and some trying to bribe their way out of an on-going corruption trial just to frustrate the judicial system and the efforts of anti-graft agencies”.

“We want to remind corruption criminals that no matter how many gimmicks they have up their sleeves, they shall eventually run out of tricks and the full wrath of the law

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The CACOL boss went further, “Our checks revealed that during 1999-2007 when Obasanjo held sway, the Federal Government built six gas power plants now supplying electricity to the national grid. They include Afam II (276mw), Ppalanto (330mw), all completed by May, 2007, a fifth plant at Alaoju, Delta State (545mw), was under construction while a sixth plant was being constructed at Ikot-Abasi, Akwa Ibom state (145mw). It was a state government partnership with FGN.

“Also during the same period, six states initiated power projects under the NIPP Program with FGN support at Sapele, Egbema,

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CACOL Commends PTAD, Calls for Probe Of Ghost Retirees

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open leadership, CACOL, has commended the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD) over the suspension of over 24,000 ghost retirees from the payroll of the Federal Government.

According to PTAD, the suspension was done as a result of the inability of the 24,021 ghost pensioners to come forward for verification over a period of three years, thereby resulting in huge revenuesavings from the payroll between March and April, 2018.

Responding to the development on behalf of CACOL, its Executive Chairman, Mr. Debo Adeniran commended PTAD for its effort in suspending the alleged ghost pensioners.

He said: “We live in a society where fraudulent practices are perpetrated with lack of conscience and so much impunity. Hence, you hear of cases of where money meant for people who do not have the strength to work anymore are being stolen and the endless list of ghost workers in the Government's payroll. The implications of these actions are very grave as it reduces the steady payment of actual pensioners and workers. It also disrupts the development of our society as some people keep enriching their pockets at the detriment of those, who have worked for it”.

Adeniran further stressed that: “Corruption is the only reason our blessed

country is not moving forward. And until we start meting out adequate deterrent punishment to whoever is culpable for a crime, there is a strong likelihood that such crime would be repeated.

“As for the ghost retirees, it is a great move to suspend the pensions of those believed to be fraudulent, but it is not enough to suspend them as these fraudsters are yet to pay for their crimes. It is thus imperative that a proper probe be initiated to apprehend those behind these fraudulent acts and bring them to book as this will serve as a deterrent to intending fraudsters.”

CACOL urged the Federal Government to further review all those currently on its payroll to checkmate anomalies and eliminate any avenue for looting state funds.

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Ehobor, Gbaram, Calabar and Omoku; rehabilitated existing power plants at Kainji, Egbin and Shiroro, which were all performing far below capacity due to accumulated neglect. In all of this, our position remains that, as an organization that prides itself as a coalition for exposing, shaming, and consigning corruption to the dustbin of history while encouraging openness in leadership without minding whose ox is gored, we hereby recommend setting up of an impartial and competent probe panel to finally lay to rest, this ghost of how much Obasanjo's administration actually spent on power projects during its 8-year tenure and expose any shady deals therein while bringing culprits to book. This practical approach must also be patiently applied in other identified areas of corruption.