



# CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY WATCH

MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH



March 2022 Edition

SUPPORTED BY:  
**MacArthur  
Foundation**

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# INTRODUCTION ▶

Dear Reader,

You are welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter this year. Our newsletter affords us the opportunity to share some areas of our intervention with our stakeholders, and we are glad to be sharing our stories with you.

The month of March is significant to us at the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW), because it is the month we celebrate the invaluable contributions of Women to the fight against corruption and their role in promoting the culture of transparency and integrity in the public service and society at large.

This edition also comes with reports of our programs and media interventions on the ongoing fuel scarcity, courtesy call on the INEC to insist on greater transparency and accountability in campaign spending, the Center's capacity development on AntiMoney Laundering and Terrorism Financing, and more.

The Center launched its Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) Methodology Handbook, and hints on our commitment to further ensure that the nation's public service is transparent and accountable, through monitoring and checks of Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) activities.

We do hope that you would find this edition enjoyable, and thank you for your continuous partnership.

**Victor Agi**  
*Public Affairs Manager*

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN MONTH: CELEBRATING RESILIENT AND **COURAGEOUS WOMEN**



May we begin our intervention on this International Women's Month by congratulating and saluting all courageous women who have demonstrated resilience and continue to advocate for transparent and accountable society.

Importantly, we remember the dogged women in public service, banking sector, civil society, media, politics etc, who have continued to defy all stereotypes and stick on in ensuring that our society is fair to all, irrespective of gender. Indeed, the journey to a prosperous and inclusive society begins when there is a level playing ground for all to exercise and maximize their potentials.

For us at the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW), we strongly hold the belief that Women have important roles in building a society that is transparent and just, not only through their roles in the family unit, where they devote quality time and resources in training and raising upright children, but in standing for what is just at workplace. Without equivocation, the level of morality any society enjoys is directly linked to the role of Women in the society.

This year's theme: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow," is another reminder for stakeholders to urgently rethink its stand on women participation in social, economic and political activities. We must work together to #breakthebias because "without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach."

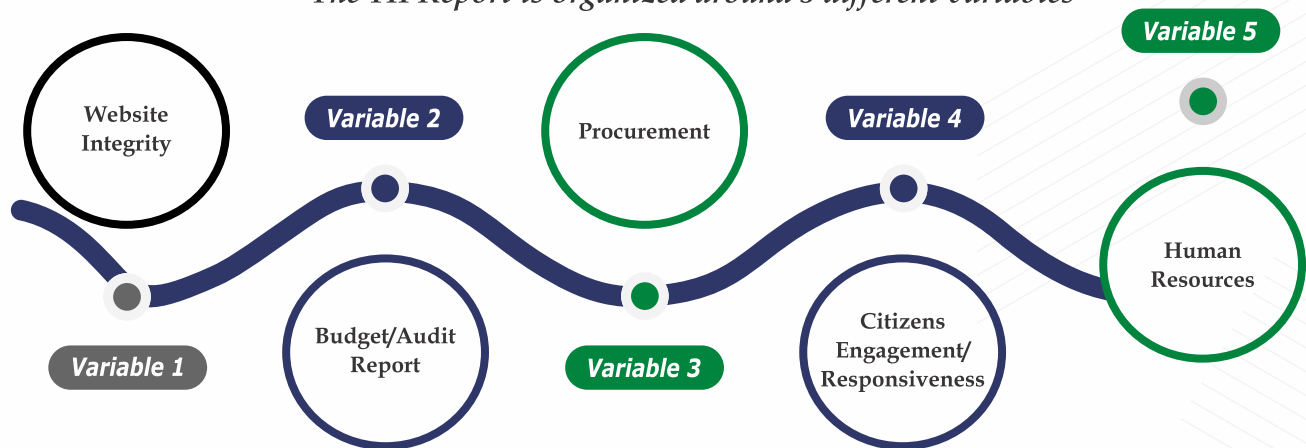
On this International Women month therefore, we renew our commitment in advocating for greater women inclusion and guaranteeing of equal rights accorded their male counterparts in every sphere of the society, especially in politics, since both genders do not share the same policy preferences. Continuous sidelining of women in key policy decisions would mean that their interests will not always be captured in policy outcome.

Finally, we are using this opportunity to call on women to continue to act as checks for excesses that would lead to corruption in workplace and society at large; and to all stakeholders, we say, let's work to #breakthebias.



# 2021 TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX RANKING

*The TII Report is organized around 5 different variables*



## TII Variables

The Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) was developed by the center to evaluate and monitor Ministers, Departments & Agencies' (MDAs) compliance with international commitments and national laws, regulations and policies on open governance. The index attempts to

institutionalize and promote a culture of transparency among MDAs in order to deepen democracy and enhance good governance.

This TII is hinged on five thematic areas, which are represented in this diagram

## TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX 2021 REPORT

The Center studied 483 Ministries, Agencies and Department (MDAs) in 2021 - and it is expected that there would be improvement in 2022.

The project has significantly aroused a culture of transparency and integrity in public service.

The highest ranked organized in 2021 was Family Homes Fund Limited, with a 34.92 score. MDAs are expected to improve their ranking in 2022.

Think Good Government, Think Transparency!

## MACARTHUR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT VISITS NIGERIA, COMMISSIONS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR TV STATION



The President of MacArthur Foundation, John Palfrey has visited Nigeria to commission a multi-million dollar TV station at the new campus of the Bayero University, Kano (BUK).

At the commissioning, Palfrey expressed delight over the development, saying that the foundation had been investing in journalism and media around the world and placed emphasis on gender equity and social inclusion, giving their importance to world peace.

He urged the university to complement the multi-million dollars intervention with sustainable investment in cyber space technology, to enable global viewers with clear visibility to the new television station.

The visit also saw the Foundation President renewing its commitment towards

supporting gender inclusiveness and strengthening intervention on fighting corruption in Nigeria.

John Palfrey, the President of MacArthur Foundation also paid a visit to the Centre for Information Technology and Development's (CITAD) head office in Kano

Over the years, Nigeria has benefited from the Foundation's work in the fight against corruption, institutionalize transparency and accountability, gender equity, social inclusion, peace promotion and general support for grassroots initiatives to eliminate corruption and promote good governance. Several NGOs, including the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW) has benefitted from its grants worth over \$124.7 million since 2015.

# Lingering Fuel Scarcity:

## CeFTIW ADVOCATES FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN THE INDUSTRY SECTOR



First, the Center wants to specially empathize with Nigerians who have remained on fuel queues for nearly two months. The attendant hardship has been far-reaching on Nigerians social economic lives.

The unbearable fuel situation was exacerbated by not just hikes in the prices of diesel and Jet-A1, but the reported collapse of the national grid affecting power generation and supply. This further affects the productivity of small, medium and large enterprises that depends on energy.

As part of our interventions, we have continued to engage stakeholders and advocating for transparency in the industry sector to eliminate corruption and other human induced factors that trigger these incessant fuel crises.

As part of our advocacies, an industry expert, Mr. Olabode

Sowunmi was engaged at our weekly Twitter Spaces programme to speak to the topic; Nigeria and Persistent Fuel Scarcity: Is Corruption the Cause? Our guest expert observed that there is urgent need for greater transparency in the operation of the upstream, midstream and downstream petroleum industry sectors in order to curb incessant fuel scarcity. He attributed the lingering crisis, which has historical antecedents to some factors which includes underdevelopment of the value chain, the rising cost of crude oil in the international market, the fall of the naira vis-à-vis the dollar and the peculiar culture of the petroleum industry work culture which encourages corruption.

Read more on Sowunmi's intervention here:  
<https://fiscaltransparency.org/2022/03/25/ceftiw-weekly-engagement-expert-harps-on->

[transparency-in-the-petroleum-industry-value-chain/](#)

Also, responding to the reported loss of \$3.27 billion (about N1.36 trillion at official rate of N416.25) worth of oil to vandalism and oil theft in the past 14 months amid the current scarcity, according to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, (NUPRC), the Centre issued a press release to demand accountability from culpable stakeholders. This report came despite the NNPC reportedly spending N32.56 billion on pipeline security and maintenance in the first seven months of 2021, over and above the N29.6 billion budgeted for the entire year.

Read full release here:  
<https://fiscaltransparency.org/2022/03/28/press-release-3-27-billion-oil-theft-loss-ceftiw-demands-accountability-from-culpable-stakeholders/>



# CENTER PARTICIPATES IN GIABA E-LEARNING TRAINING ON ML/TF, OTHER PREDICATE CRIMES FACILITATED BY NFIU



The Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW) has participated in a GIABA e-learning training on ML/TF (Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing) and other predicate crimes, especially in the West Africa sub-region.

The training facilitated by the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) was attended by a few selected stakeholders in the fight against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, and provided participants with skills and requisite knowledge in ML/TF and predicate crimes, and ways to fight such crimes in line with global best practices.

In his opening remarks, the representative of the Director and Chief Executive Officer of NFIU, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed said that the goal of the training was to birth experts in AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism) who can go beyond the shores of Nigeria, and enjoined participants to make the best of the sessions.

While also speaking, Mr. Muazu Umaru, the Director of Policy & Research, GIABA, stated that the training was meant for expanding knowledge and skills in basic and advanced courses in the implementation of AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism) globally, and West Africa in particular. He said that the training is in line with GIABA's responsibility of monitoring compliance with money laundering Acts and building response capacity of stakeholders across the region.

Specifically, the Center's representative received trainings and was certified on the following courses: Understanding Money Laundering, Understanding Transnational Organized Crime, Informants, Money Laundering Havens, Introduction to Anti-Corruption, Human Trafficking, and Introduction to Basic Intelligence Analysis.

The knowledge would be used to support the Center's advocacy against corruption in the public sector and strengthens its campaign against money laundering, terrorism financing and other predicate crimes.

# CeFTIW PRESENTS TII METHODOLOGY HANDBOOK



As it prepares to mine data for the second edition of the Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) report, which would be unveiled on the 28th of September, 2022 in commemoration of the United Nations International Day for Access to Information, the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW) has presented the Methodology Handbook to stakeholders.

In his remarks, the Executive Director, Yakubu Umar noted that the methodology handbook which has been validated by the Professional Statistician Society of Nigeria (PSSN) and Nigerian Statistical Association (NSA), would serve as a comprehensive guide for all MDAs on how to ensure adherence with relevant guiding principles for improved performance in TII rating and scores.

At the presentation were critical stakeholders from Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) including Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission,

Petroleum Technology Development Fund, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, National Information Development Agency, among others

Among stakeholders from the Civil Society Organizations are the CLEEN Foundation, Connected Development (CODE), Accountability Lab, Plan International, Center for Transparency Advocacy, among others.

The media stakeholders represented at the presentation are News Agency of Nigeria, Nigeria Television Authority, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Premium Times, Trust TV, Leadership, among others.

The participation of the media and CSOs was to collaborate and deepen advocacies and campaign for transparency in the nation's public sector.

All stakeholders applauded the initiative, pledged to cooperate with the Centre and commit to improve on their performance vis-a-vis the rating criteria that were discussed at the event.





# DOES INTEGRITY REALLY MATTER IN NIGERIA?

By Ambassador Angela Nworgu



Integrity is seen in varied forms, including the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. On the flip side, a lack of integrity would therefore include the absence of these strong moral principles or values upon which society is established or lack of respect for them.

This would then amount to corruption of these values or the principles or standards of behaviour, or the degradation of the regard that such values are held to deserve, their importance, worth or usefulness.

All societal norms or standards of behaviour culminate, in my opinion, in being our brother's keeper or, as they say, "having each other's back". But

selfishness, greed and the extreme love of money have corroded these time-honoured values almost to the state of non-existence.

In the mad rush to amass wealth, parents no longer care about the proper upbringing or education of their children as many of them are complicit in the brazen act of buying grades for their children, with the active involvement of the schools themselves and the teachers, who themselves also emerged from the same corrupt system.

***The incisive connection between cause and effect needs to be emphasized in the upbringing and education of children.***

On their part, the children have no real attachment or love for the parents and in some cases, are willing to use them for money rituals. There are many evil machinations these days being linked to religious leaders – all aimed at extracting as much money as

possible from their already impoverished members.

Private

jets are purchased literally with the blood of these hapless members.

Schools are built to which most members can never afford to send their children. In the banking sector, employees –

the so-called marketers, are given targets, so impossibly high that some, especially females, are forced to turn to immoral practices to keep their jobs. The stress endured in the process is invariably transferred to the family.

In the retail sector, products are degraded with the addition of substances, some of which are poisonous – only in order to increase the volume of both the product and the profit therefrom. Agricultural products are injected with harmful chemicals to get them to ripen or mature quicker.

Importers bring in fake or adulterated products while relevant authorities look away. Nigerians are still groaning from the recent importation of adulterated petroleum products, which caused damage to many people's cars. No one has, to my knowledge, been held accountable, which means that it is only a matter of time before another similar catastrophe occurs.

Elections are so manipulated that sometimes those not even on the ballot are sworn in! The electorate is kept in the dark regarding the sources of funding for the campaigns and the buying of votes by political office aspirants compromises voters who therewith lose their voice.

People are paid to help rig elections, security threats are created to ensure a continuous flow of security votes, monies budgeted for arms and ammunition are stashed away while servicemen are butchered

by Boko Haram undefended. Pipelines are vandalized and oil stolen with the support of those whose duty it is to protect the facilities.

Prohibited drugs are imported and exported with cover provided by those in charge of enforcement. Now we are beset with all manner of ills – armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, ritual murders, banditry, book haram, etc. – all of which are excrescences of our moral breakdown.

The list of our woes has become endless and we seem to have lost our mojo! Unfortunately, there are no longer any effective mentors as the older generations are as rotten as the younger ones, and even if there were, no one would be willing to listen to anyone.

But at what point in our history as a nation did we take the wrong turn? Nigeria used to be an economically viable, stable and peaceful country. Then came the civil war and the numerous military regimes in quick succession. Piece by piece, our moral backbone was picked to pieces until nothing was left of it.

Now, we are gnashing our teeth under this enormous burden, lamenting and complaining, not realizing that we brought this upon ourselves – yes, all of us! For as long as we have contributed to the current situation, be it only through our words or thoughts, we are bound to these consequences to the extent of our contribution thereto.

Since we have created this mess, we must also collectively begin to redress it. First, we must realize that whatever we do – in our thoughts, words or actions – we do only to and for ourselves, even when we have intended them for others. The natural nexus between cause and effect is the originator who must eventually reap the outcome, sweet or sour.

Since the Creator and His Laws are never mocked, we must re-order our lives in order to receive more pleasant consequences. The incisive connection between cause and effect needs to be emphasized in the upbringing and education of children.

At the public level, there is an urgent need to revamp our education system – bring back civic and moral education, ensure teachers are well trained and qualified to teach, root out examination malpractices and restore meritocracy in our national life. Meritocracy can be achieved even within the National Character Principle.

Standardization is crucial if we are to be taken seriously by the international community. The situation whereby graduates of our institutions from different parts of the country possess differing levels of proficiency in the same fields of study is worrisome and embarrassing.

Angela Nworgu, a retired Director with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs writes, from Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CFTIW).



# CeFTIW TAKES ADVOCACY TO INEC ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON CAMPAIGN SPENDING



In the wake of the recently signed electoral law which saw an increase in campaign spending for political office aspirants, the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch (CeFTIW) is urging INEC to monitor the sources of electoral campaign funds, while also advocating for a prudent and regulated use of money in politics.

During the courtesy call on the Commission, the CeFTIW team led by the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ambassador Ifeyinwa Angela Nworgu, was received by Prof. Kunle Ajayi, Honourable Commissioner, Election and Party Monitoring Committee, (EPMC), and the Center committed to supporting the electoral umpire with data and advocacies towards ensuring transparency in sources of funding for political office aspirants.

Read full report here:

<https://fiscaltransparency.org/2022/03/14/transparency-and-accountability-on-campaign-spending-ceftiw-takes-advocacy-to-inec/>



# CeFTIW Provides Training on Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing



In line with the Center's anticorruption advocacy, the Executive Director of the Centre for Fiscal transparency & Integrity Watch (CeFTIW), Umar Yakubu provided training on anti-money laundering and terrorism financing; at an event organized by the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria to equip staff of financial institutions, regulatory agencies and law enforcement

agencies with skillsets for identifying and curbing Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (ML/FT) risks in the financial sector.

Read more here:  
<https://fiscaltransparency.org/2022/03/23/ceftiw-provides-training-on-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing/>



# CORRUPTION



## CORRUPTION

A growing menace  
 Leads to a great decadence  
 Strips of all integrity  
 Ruins the society,  
 Greed for personal necessity  
 Shirks the responsibility  
 Avoids the transparency  
 Eats into the root of democracy,  
 For an undue favour

Pandemic at everywhere  
 All for the rat race  
 To expedite their own process,  
 A great devil  
 Brings all social evils.

**Pradiptakumar Mohanty**





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