



CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY WATCH

MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH



SUPPORTED BY:
**MacArthur
Foundation**

December 2022 Edition

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

We bring you warm greetings and sincere compliments. We are pleased to share the last edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch with you.

The year 2022 has been momentous for us at the Center, and we are especially grateful for your support and interest in our work all year long.

The month of December is always an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect and recommit to the fight against public sector corruption. This year, to mark the auspicious occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day, the Center, in recognition of the need for us to be more inclusive in the fight against corruption, organized “Good Governance and Organized Crime Quiz Competition” for youth corps members and secondary school students to inculcate the right values in young people. The event, a huge success, was a unique platform to sensitize young people on good governance and organized crime and its danger to peace and societal development.

Among several other events to mark this year’s celebration, the Center also joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Nigeria at a session on Nigeria’s Implementation of the 2014 and 2019 United Nations Convention Against Corruption Review Recommendations, where we recommitted to supporting the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy policy which has been renewed till 2026.

In retrospect, the year saw us making leaps and bold steps toward the realization of our vision as one of the key stakeholders in the fight against corruption. We have been consistent in promoting global best practices and entrenching the culture of transparency and accountability in the nation’s public sector, and we are glad at the impact of our projects and interventions at different fora. In 2022, the Center’s collaborative advocacy led to the passage of three anti-corruption legislations namely: the Terrorism Prohibition and Prevention Act, Money Laundering Prohibition Act and Proceeds of Crimes Act, which have undoubtedly strengthened the legal and institutional frameworks in the fight against corruption and insecurity.

INTRO. CONT.

We are pleased to also note that one of the Center's flagship projects, the Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) developed in 2021 as a homegrown monitoring tool for promoting public sector transparency in line with the principle of proactive disclosure, witnessed an improved performance in the 2022 Assessment with the highest ranked organization, Development Bank of Nigeria scoring 58.74% up from the highest score of 34.92% in 2021. This was made possible through sustained advocacy and partnership with relevant stakeholders, especially the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), a government agency empowered to initiate and coordinate the implementation of reforms in the nation's civil service.

Our other projects such as the Probes Monitor Portal which hosts grand corruption-related probes initiated by the National Assembly since 1999 is a work in progress in deepening democracy by enhancing transparency, and drawing the attention of relevant stakeholders to advocate and promote the conclusion of the avalanche of abandoned probes. Likewise, the Public Service Diary Portal developed in partnership with the BPSR will facilitate knowledge exchange between retirees and those in active service, and will be resourceful for the nation's public service in the long run.

Concerned by the urgent need to discourage the weaponization of poverty through monetization of our electoral processes, the Center's Electoral Financing project also seeks to promote transparency of political candidates' source of electoral funding. The Center seized this opportunity to call on political candidates to respond to our questionnaire as a demonstration of their willingness to uphold the sanctity of our electoral process. As a moral obligation, they owe to the people they intend to serve.

Dear reader, the year has indeed been impactful in many regards, and it is always a pleasure to talk about our election as the sub-Saharan African representative at the Board of the UNCAC Coalition which has expanded the scope of our interventions beyond the nation. In the coming year, we look to expand and mainstream the TII as a tool for measuring public sector transparency and accountability across the region. Consequently, the Center seeks regional and international collaboration with civil society groups to make this objective a reality. We believe that when we improve transparency and entrench the culture of proactive disclosure in public service, corruption would have been addressed by miles.

Once again, we appreciate your interest and partnership with the Center, and we look forward to making more impact together in 2023.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in Advance.

Victor Agi
Public Relations



2022 IACD: Young People Mobilized, Urged to take Responsibility in the Fight Against Corruption

The 2022 Anti-Corruption Day Celebration was another reminder of the role young people can play in the fight against corruption. To mark this year's celebration and in recognition of the need for inclusion in the fight against corruption, the Center organized "Good Governance and Organized Crime" quiz for secondary school students and youth corps members in the nation's capital, Abuja.

The event affords the opportunity to sensitize and urge young people to support the fight against corruption by being exemplary and exhibiting the highest standard of values and moral behavior everywhere they find themselves.

The quiz was intended to create awareness and test corps members and students' knowledge on issues of good governance, financial crime, ethics and

organized crime.

Young people were unanimous on the need to join hands in the fight against corruption which has undermined societal growth and development. Among other useful suggestions, participants point to the need to address decadence at the family and community level, and the need to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to effectively combat crimes and criminalities.

The Center is committed to sustaining this effort at sensitizing young people through advocacy and knowledge-driven programs. There must be inclusivity in the fight against corruption, and anti-corruption crusaders are enjoined to join this effort.

Sav No to Corruption. Every No Counts



IACD 2022: At UNODC Session, Stakeholders Harp on Behavioral Rebirth to Stem Corruption, as Center Recommits to Implementation of NACS

As part of the events to commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day Celebration (IACD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Nigeria organized the session on Nigeria's Implementation of the 2014 and 2019 United Nations Convention Against Corruption Review Recommendations.

From the review report, Nigeria has complied and made progress, attaining an average score of 59% with the 65 recommendations across four chapters of the Convention namely: Preventive measures (16), Criminalization and Law Enforcement (26), International Cooperation (18), and Asset Recovery (5).

While addressing the session, Oliver Stolpe, the UNODC Country Representative described Nigeria's performance in the years under review as impressive, given the institutional, legal and operational frameworks and strides Nigeria has made. Oliver noted that the nation's investment in the fight against corruption is making gains, but called for more stakeholders' actions on corruption prevention measures where the nation's made the least progress.

Amb. Angela Nworgu, the Center's BoT Chairman represented the Center at the panel discussion which also had the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, the Solicitor-General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Beatrice Jeddy-Agba, Chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau, Prof. Isah Mohammed, the Executive Director of the Agora Policy, Waziri Adio, the Executive Secretary of the Presidential Advisory Council Against Corruption, Prof. Sadiq Radah and Member of the European Union Youth Sounding Board, Mubarak Idris.

The panelists were unanimous in calling for a behavioral rebirth and mindset shift among the

citizenry and the public service to stem the occurrences of corruption. It is the belief of stakeholders that until the remote and actual triggers of corruption are identified and addressed from the root, corruption prevention may continue to be an uphill task for stakeholders.

Stakeholders also recommended the general strengthening of corruption sanctions regimes and the enhancement of systems and institutions that would make corruption difficult to perpetuate.

As posited by Amb. Nworgu during the panel discussion, the Center is committed to working with relevant stakeholders towards ensuring that mechanisms that promotes transparency and accountability are entrenched in the nation's public service.

Supporting the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in the past (2017-2021), the Center is poised to working with the coordinating Ministry of Justice to seeing that the renewed strategy which is in force till 2026 is fully implemented across board.

Particularly, we are seizing this opportunity to call for the need to prioritize the fight against corruption at subnational levels (states and local government). Until we take the fight against corruption to these critical components of our society, the journey to ridding out corruption from our society may be farfetched.



2022 IADC in Pictures

Center joins stakeholders to discuss this year's theme; "UNCAC 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption," and review the nation's efforts in the fight against corruption in the past one year.



At UNODC Session on Nigeria's Implementation of the UNCAC Review



2022 IADC in Pictures

Quiz Competition for Youth Corps Members and Secondary School Students



Center Joins Coalition to Demand for Swift Passage of Whistleblower Protection Bill

Worried by the lack of legislative and comprehensive institutional frameworks for the administration of whistleblowing as an important tool for mobilizing citizens in the fight against corruption, the Center has signed into a coalition of civil society organizations that are advocating for the swift passage of the Whistleblower Protection Bill.

strengthening the anti-corruption environment, to seeing to the expedited passage of the bill which, according to reports is due for presentation and consideration at the Federal Executive Council for onward transmission to the National Assembly.

Say No to Corruption, Every No Counts

The position of the Coalition under the auspices of Whistleblowing Advocacy Coalition (WACO) is that the absence of whistleblowing protection legislation is endangering, and scaring willing whistleblowers, thereby hampering the smooth implementation of the government's whistleblowing policy.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja to mark this year's International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD), the Coalition is calling on relevant stakeholders to ensure the passage of the draft bill before the expiration of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration next year.

The Center wishes to reiterate the position of the Coalition that whistleblowing is not just a mechanism for addressing fraud and illegalities, but also a right of freedom of expression, which is a fundamental right that needs to be fully protected.

We are therefore committed, in line with our core objective of



Center, Other CSOs Commit to Strengthening Nigeria's Asset Declaration Regime

Regarded as one of the vital ways of preventing corruption in the public service, the CSOs roundtable workshop organized by the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) was to strengthen relationship with the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) on how to strengthen asset declaration regime in Nigeria.

Participants noted that the Bureau has a critical role to play in the fight against corruption, especially serving as a moral and legal watchdog against public-sector embezzlement and undue enrichment.

As the foremost anti-corruption agency which derived its strength and operation from section 3, part of the Third Schedule to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, and mandated to receive declarations by public officers under paragraph 12 of part 1 of the fifth schedule to the constitution, the Bureau generally scored low in carrying out its core function of preventing corruption among public officers.

Representatives of Civil Society Organizations

(CSOs) pledged to support the Bureau with advocacy and technical expertise that would amplify the Bureau's operations and its invaluable role in preventing public sector corruption.

This effort is timely as it came on the heels of the recent report of Nigeria's Implementation of the 2014 and 2019 United Nations Convention Against Corruption Review Recommendations by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Nigeria, which scored Nigeria lowest on its corruption prevention measures.

The Center looks to continue working with the Bureau and CSOs in the criminal justice sector towards ensuring that the nation's asset declaration regime is enhanced. The Center's Electoral Financing Project for instance rides on the moral obligation political candidates owe the people, to demand for their sources of campaign financing. Although politicians have continued to shy away from disclosing their sources of campaign funding, we believe that continuous advocacy will bring about the desired change for development.



Press release



CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY WATCH

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Office Address:
No. 11, Ado-Ekiti Close,
Off Emeka Anyaoku Street,
Area 11, Garki - Abuja.

Press Release

9th December, 2022

IACD 2022: Beyond the Rhetoric, It's Time for Action-based Commitment

The auspicious occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day every year presents a unique opportunity for stakeholders and the Center especially to reflect and recommit to the fight against public sector corruption and the entrenching of the culture of transparency and accountability across the board.

In the past one (1) year, Nigeria has made progress in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other regional and international commitments through the signing into law of anti-corruption legislations. The passage of the Terrorism Prohibition and Prevention Act, Money Laundering Prohibition Act and the Proceeds of Crimes Act has no doubt firmed institutional and legal frameworks in the nation's fight against corruption.

For us at the Center, these legislations are crucial to the work that we do which revolves around strengthening the anti-corruption environment; hence, apart from leading the advocacy that led to the passage and eventual assent by President Muhammadu Buhari in May this year, the Center, alongside its partners in the criminal justice sector, has continued to build the capacity of key stakeholders drawn from Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) towards the effective implementation of these laws.

Nevertheless, feedback from our recent workshop points to the need for more advocacy and improved capacity of stakeholders for proper domestication and operationalization of these legal instruments. This year's Anti-Corruption Day commemoration, therefore, affords us the opportunity to remind stakeholders of their commitments to the fight against corruption, which must now go beyond yearly rhetoric to action-based commitments.

Consequently, and as the Sub-Saharan Africa representative at the Board of the UNCAC Coalition, we are pleased with the direction the Coalition is taking its conversation at this year's International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). Indeed, stakeholders must move from commitments to implementation, and entrenching anti-corruption monitoring mechanisms to increase government accountability is pertinent. The Center's Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) is one of such corruption monitoring tools which has proven an important instrument for assessing and improving public sector transparency and accountability in government business.

The assessment which was first developed in 2021 has seen improved performance in some of the variables, with the highest-ranked organization scoring 58.74%, up from 34.92% in the previous year. As part of our expansion drive, the Center is currently seeking partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) across the continent to mainstream the TII as a tool for measuring public sector transparency and accountability.

Also, the conversation around environmental crime at this year's conference is apt and timely. The Center's organized crime project focuses on the issue of environmental crime and its contribution to the climate crisis that our planet is currently facing. The need to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks against environmental crime and enforcement of extant laws on clean and healthy environment must indeed be part of the conversation in our collective effort to stem the climate crisis.

The Center congratulates advocates around the world and urges stakeholders not to relent in the fight against corruption. Corruption is a scourge that requires our collective resolve to uproot from our society. In this recognition, to commemorate this year's IACD, the Center is organizing a **"Good Governance and Organized Crime Quiz Competition"** for youth corps members and secondary school students in view of the need to inculcate the right values in young people. This event is also intended to sensitize young people on good governance and organized crime and its danger to peace and societal development.

Let's join hands and "Say No to Corruption, Every No Counts"

For: CeFTIW

Victor Agi
Public Relations Officer

Website: www.fiscaltransparency.org, Email: mail@fiscaltransparency.org, Phone: 09 2921659

Board of Trustees : Ifeyinwa Angela Nworgu Esq | AIG Zubairu Muazu (Rtd) mni | Professor Nelson Aluya | Umar Yakubu



Still on 13% Derivation Fund, States Fiscal Conditions and Fight Against Corruption

By Victor Agi

A few weeks ago, as part of the World Bank-funded Ministry of Finance championed State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) program, state Governors assembled in Abuja to celebrate the success of the 4-year project which has come to an end (2018-2022). The program focuses on strengthening the fiscal conditions of Nigerian states and explores ways to domesticate best practices in planning, budgeting, accounting, and reporting government finances and expenditures.

Expectedly, the program which has two components, that is, the performance-based financing and technical assistance components, had almost all the states subscribing as the World Bank committed some \$1.5 billion in funding. The performance-based financing component considers the implementation of fiscal sustainability plans and Open

Government Partnership (OGP) frameworks that are relevant for proper fiscal management and performance. These indices are generally considered weak, with several states facing fiscal pressure, just like the federal government. On the other hand, the technical assistance component supports states based on need and demand, as opposed to performance.

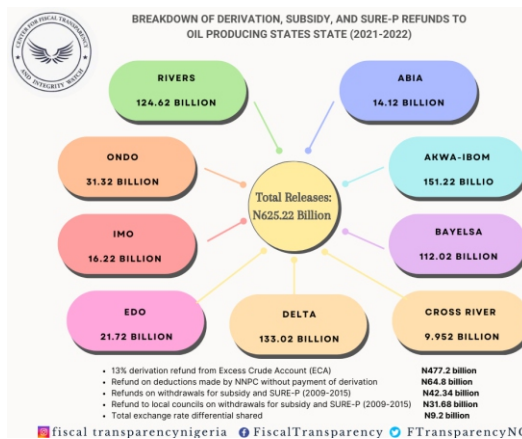
Whether the program has achieved its objective of strengthening fiscal transparency, build trust in governance, enhance the monitoring of fiscal risks, and facilitates accountability in public resource management, will be determined in the coming years, now that the funding period has elapsed.

The other expectation from the project, which is to reduce the opportunities for corruption and misuse of public resources, “thereby increasing

categorically said to have been achieved given the nation’s perennial struggle with corruption at national and subnational levels.

Recently, the Governor of River State during the commissioning of the Nabo Graham Douglas campus of the Nigerian Law School in Rumueme, Port Harcourt, in an unconventional admission, showered praises on President Muhammadu Buhari for approving the payment of accrued arrears of the 13% derivation funds, which he said has been instrumental to the state’s infrastructural transformation drive.

Governor Wike was quoted to have said: “Let me say it for the first time. So many people asked me: ‘where is he getting this money’? Let me say it. Through the Attorney-General of the Federation, I want to thank Mr. President. Monies that were not paid to the Niger Delta states since 1999; the 13 per cent deductions, Mr President, approved and paid all of us from the Niger Delta states.”

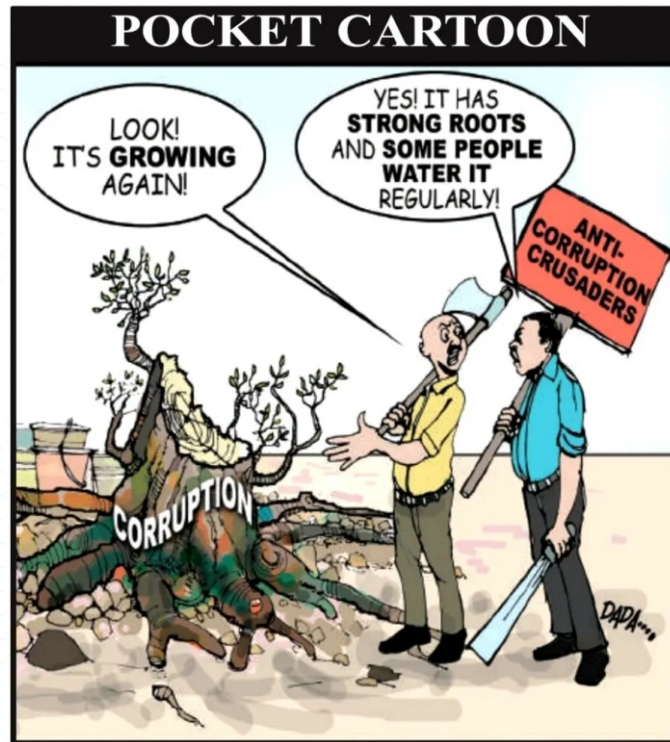


You may want to recall that an order of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has, in 2021, compelled the federal government to pay the Niger Delta states who are beneficiaries of the 13% oil derivative these arrears in “sixty equal months installments”. It is therefore pleasing that the government in compliance with the judgment has begun the payment to the nine (9) concerned states.

Read more on Daily Trust here:

<https://dailytrust.com/still-on-13-derivation-fund-states-fiscal-conditions-and-fight-against-corruption/>

Victor Agi is a Public Affairs Analyst, and Head, Public Relations, Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch



Source: Vanguard Newspaper

STOP CORRUPTION

Stop corruption please,
It's a contagious disease,
That not only affects the persons,
But also the whole nation.

Corruption is like cancer,
Spreading from one part to another,
And its movement is so fast,
That almost nothing's left to be done at last.

The apparent patriots like the scared birds,
Fly away to the distant lands,
In search of a secured,
And better life indeed.

If anyone dares to stand against corruption,
The ones suffering from the very pollution,
Throw him in the jail,
Or bury under the soil.

As the sunset lets the dawn to appear,
We shouldn't let our dreams expire,
Since the expected moment isn't far away,
Only you and I can bring that day.

@Md. Ziaul Haque



Contact us at:
No 11 Ado-Ekiti Close, Area 11, Abuja

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