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# INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

We are pleased to share the February edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch with you.

As the nation transit from one democratic governance to another, we are yet reminded that great democracies are built on the principles of transparency and integrity. The credibility of our democratic processes is therefore crucial on our path to greatness as a nation.

Over the month, in preparation for the election, the Center joined stakeholders in conversations that would strengthen the electoral process. The Center's Electoral Financing campaign was also at the core of our advocacy to ensure that there is transparency in candidates' source of campaign financing.

Despite the unwillingness of political leaders to disclose their sources of campaign financing, we are glad that vote buying and selling was not a major determining factor in this year's election. Generally, however, we hope that stakeholders can work together towards improving the transparency of subsequent polls beginning with the Governorship elections slated for 11 March, 2023.

We do hope that you would find this edition of our newsletter resourceful, and continue to support us in our quest to strengthen transparency and accountability in the nation's public sector.

**Victor Agi**  
Head, Public Relations



## Center Participates at NACS 2022-2026 Review Workshop

Organized by the Federal Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC), the workshop was to seek the inputs of stakeholders on the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2022-2026 draft document.

The review session was divided into three groups focusing on prevention, enforcement & sanction; public engagement & ethical reorientation; and recovery & management of proceeds of crimes.

The review session focuses on strengthening and enhancing the stated key areas in readiness for the implementation of the new framework. Areas such as the need to modify strategic goals, proper identification and segmentation of overlapping responsibilities of anti-corruption agencies, and timelines for the project in order to prevent a repeat of the challenges that characterized the first strategy were observed during the review process.

As a key player in the implementation of the first strategy, the Center hopes that there would be more coordination and inclusion in the implementation of the new strategy. The supervising Ministry must also embark on sensitization and ensure that there is wider public awareness of the strategy beyond the federal level to states and local government areas.

The Center looks forward to working with relevant stakeholders towards strengthening the anti-corruption environment.





## Transparency in National Census Center Welcomes Digitization of Process

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch, while participating at the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) Lunchtime Seminar, has welcomed the planned digitization of the forthcoming census exercise.

The Center's Executive Director, Umar Yakubu made this position on the heels of the disclosure by the Chairman of the National Population Commission, Hon. Nasir Isa Kwarra during his presentation on the theme: "National Development and the Imperatives of 2023 Population and Housing Census." He said that digitization would increase the transparency and credibility of the process.

The Center also seized the opportunity to demand for transparency and accountability in the spending of the over N400 billion earmarked for the exercise.

In his presentation, the Chairman said that the Commission is committed and working with stakeholders to conduct the first fully "digital and transformative" census in Nigeria in April 2023; noting that the data that will be generated from the exercise will greatly assist in governance and socio-economic planning and development of the country at large.

Kwarra stated that population is a critical factor in the nation's effort towards achieving sustainable development, adding that a knowledge of the country's population in terms of size, distribution and socio-economic characteristics will be useful for planning. He therefore described the forthcoming process as "one huge investment the nation must make to launch Nigeria into the path of economic prosperity through proper planning and optimal allocation of resources."

In his remarks, the BPSR Director General, Mr. Dasuki Arabi also stated that a knowledge of the nation's population is crucial for planning and development. "Development must begin and end with addressing

the aspirations of the populace for higher living standards because they are both the agents and the beneficiaries of the development process," he said.

While urging the Commission to strengthen its collaborations with all stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and media in order to improve publicity ahead of the exercise, Arabi advised it to be circumspect with the management and security of data, given the spate of cyber-attacks in recent time.





## Transparency and Integrity Index Center builds capacity of FCC's staff



**A**s part of the Center's continuous advocacy to deepen fiscal transparency and improve the performance of MDAs in the Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) ranking, the Center was at the Federal Character Commission to build capacity of staff members.

The training was on the invitation of the Commission and the Planning and Strategy department was led through the methodology and variables adopted for the assessment, as well as requirements for improving in subsequent ranking.

The TII is a tool for measuring public institutions' compliance with local and international laws and commitments on open governance, transparency and accountability.

The Center is willing to support MDAs improve their rankings by enhancing internal ability and building of capacity on the assessment methodology and other technical components.





## Asset Recovery & Transparency Center Monitors NDLEA Asset Disposal Processes

In Pursuant of one of its core mandates as provided for in Section 3 (c) of the Proceed of Crimes Act which empowers relevant agencies to establish and maintain “assets management and disposal systems, and lists of approved auctioneers and valuers, and issue instructions for the realization or security of assets whilst ensuring fair process,” the Center was invited by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to monitor and observe the bidding and auction process for some recovered assets by the Agency.

The Center welcomes and wishes to commend the NDLEA for complying with the provision of the POCA on asset disposal. The participation of independent observers is crucial for the credibility of the process, and relevant MDAs are enjoined to continue to engage critical stakeholders in their asset management processes.





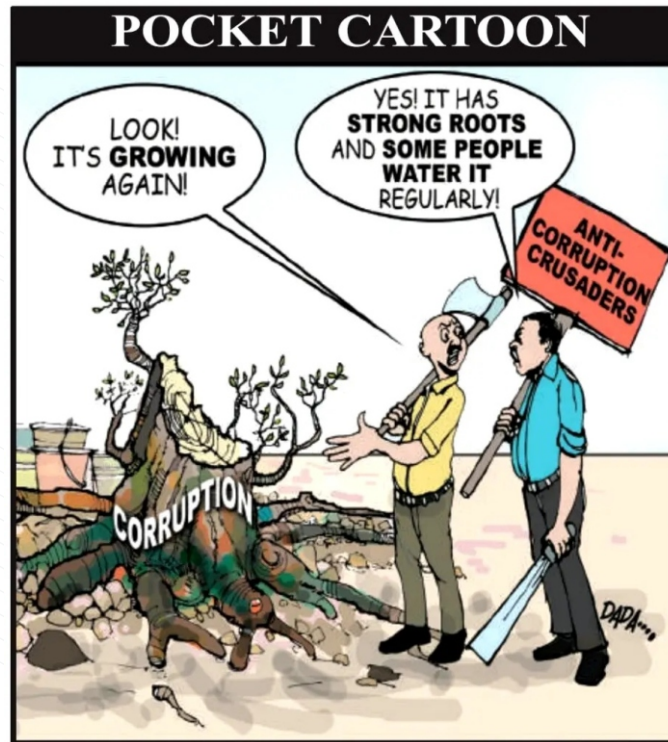
## Civic Space and 2023 Election

**A**head of the general elections, and in efforts to end impunity against Journalists and promote safe election reporting, the Center joined the Center for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) and other stakeholders to discuss ways to protect journalists from attack, abuse and violence during elections.

Journalists and observers ensure the integrity of the process through their on-the-spot reportage on election day, thereby enhancing the credibility of the process. Citizens and relevant stakeholders, especially security agencies should therefore see journalists as partners in promoting the credibility of our polls, and should therefore protect them from harm and violence.







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.

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