



Center, BPSR Presents Transparency and Integrity Index Methodology Handbook for 2024 Assessment

As part of the ongoing efforts to promote access to information and citizens' engagement by encouraging public institutions to proactively disclose certain information as enabled by laws, The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) in collaboration with the Bureau of Public Service Reforms has presented the Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) methodology handbook for 2024 assessment.

The methodology handbook provides a detailed explanation of the variables and the scoring criteria for the evaluation and assessment of openness and transparency of public institutions. For this year's assessment, the Center identified 31 sub-variables organized around 5 thematic areas (variables) namely: Financials, Procurement, Human Resources, Control of Corruption and Citizens Engagement.

Speaking at the presentation, the Program Officer of the Center, Tamara Berepubo explained that the Index developed in 2021, and supported by the MacArthur Foundation, serves as a means of gauging the transparency of public institutions while also enhancing the effectiveness of existing accountability measures. She stressed that transparency is essential for good governance as it guarantees that the public can access and understand decision-making processes and outcomes thereby enhancing accountability, trust, and citizen participation in governance.

Cont. on the next page....

Presentation of the Transparency and Integrity Index Methodology Handbook for 2024 Assessment



The Center’s Program Officer stated that the variables were carefully designed to align with applicable laws and statutory instruments, ensuring a robust and comprehensive assessment process. She explained that the guiding principles for the variables are drawn from a range of legal frameworks, including the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended); the Public Procurement Act 2007 (as amended), the Freedom of Information Act 2011; the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007; Executive Order No. 001, 2017; and Federal Character Principles.

“We also derive inspiration from national strategies such as the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2017-2021) and (2022-2026) and the States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability Framework; Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018; Sustainability Framework amongst others.

“It is worthy of note that our guiding principles extend beyond national borders. We draw from international conventions and treaties to which Nigeria is a signatory, such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) 2004, the Open Government Partnership (OGP); the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) 2006; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 10 and 16 among others” she stated.

In his keynote address, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation SGF, Dr. George Akume called on stakeholders to collaborate and commit to the assessment, adding that the Index presents an opportunity for “a new era of governance characterized by integrity, transparency, and citizen-centricity.”

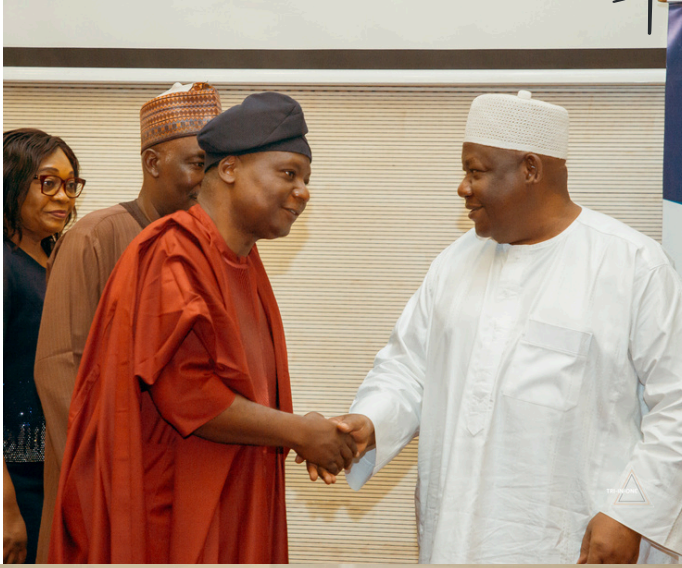


Represented by the Director of ICT, Wase Isah Francis, the SGF noted that trust in public institutions is paramount for development, and urged public institutions to take proactive measures to ensure the highest standards of accountability and integrity.



On his part, the Director General of the BPSR, Mr. Dasuki Arabi said that the Index is a clarion call on public institutions to strengthen their operations from within by adopting best practices and embracing innovation that paves the way for a more transparent and responsive public sector.

Photos Speak



CENTER, NIGERIAN ARMY RESOURCE CENTER TO PARTNER TOWARDS STRENGTHENING PERSONNEL, INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME



The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) and the Nigerian Army Resource Center (NARC) have agreed, in principle, to partner in strengthening personnel and institutional capacity and response against organized crime in Nigeria.

This was agreed upon when the Center was received, in courtesy visit, by the Director General, Major General Garba Ayodeji Wahab (rtd) and other management staff of the NARC.

The NARC is saddled with the responsibility of generating and interrogating ideas towards addressing issues on Defence and Security; and a resource hub for Defence and Security matters, which aligns with one of the aspects of the Center's Countering Organized Crime Programme (COCP) which seeks to support stakeholders with data and institutional capacity to tackle organized crime.

In his address, the Executive Director of the Center, Umar Yakubu said the Center's organized crime programme which saw the convening of an International Symposium on Countering Organized Crime in Africa, seeks to explore and adopt effective strategies in tackling organized crime.

He said that the Center's data-driven response to the phenomenon of organized crime requires constant upskilling of security personnel to match the ever-evolving crimes that transcend borders and affect communities globally.

Responding to the purpose of the visit, MG Wahab (rtd) welcomed the partnership, stating that the NARC is committed to working with stakeholders for the government to accomplish the task of eradicating insecurity and promoting peace across the country.

The DG seized the occasion to call on the citizens to support the government in its bid to rid the nation of insecurity, noting that the military will, on its part, continue to operate by the rule of law.



Photos Speak



FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FIGHTING CORRUPTION MATTERS

By Umar Yakubu

“...good governance should be an expectation, not an exception.” – Abigail Spanberger

Many astute analysts of the Nigerian government's actions since May 2023 concur that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu demonstrates a genuine commitment to enhancing Nigeria, particularly in the realms of security and the economy, in alignment with the provisions of Section 14 (2) of the Constitution. With regard to the security sector, despite the recent surge in kidnappings, there have been overall improvements. Crime tends to adapt and mutate over time. As efforts are made to combat one form of criminal activity, new challenges inevitably arise. Thus, akin to other pivotal sectors, the security domain remains dynamic and necessitates continuous innovation and adaptation.

In analysing the economic landscape, it becomes evident that the current administration faces formidable obstacles due to the legacy of its predecessors. The preceding administration's actions significantly deteriorated the economic foundation of the country. The adverse effects include a huge external debt accumulation; fiscal mismanagement; and a dual borrowing approach involving the reliance on both external borrowing and internal printing of money for consumption, which exacerbated macroeconomic instability. The naira experienced depreciation due to the excessive printing of money, which has fuelled momentous inflation. A significant portion of the newly printed money however flowed to politically exposed individuals, who often converted this to US dollars, thereby worsening the inflationary pressures and contributing to the ongoing foreign exchange crisis.

While the current administration inherited an economically battered state, the challenges associated with the economy are distinct from those of the

security sector. Unlike security matters, where pragmatic approaches can be discerned, the economic domain is entangled with loyalties and political settlements. Navigating this intricate landscape requires astute decision-making and innovative strategies to restore stability and foster growth. Its now evident that IMF prescriptions, with their fatal consequences, have not solved our economic problems since 1987.

To initiate any meaningful reform, we must embark on the essential process of purging corrupt and inept public officers who bear the weighty responsibility of safeguarding our nation's security. Only then can we lay the groundwork for a more robust and effective system. The second emergency is to reduce wastage. Mr Waziri Adio's extensive research on about sixty government owned enterprises has unveiled a disconcerting reality.



You can access full article on PT here: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/678539-for-national-security-and-economic-development-fighting-corruption-matters-by-umar-yakubu.html?tztc=1>

INFOGRAPHICS CORNER



SKEPTICS



2024 BUDGET

N82 Billion

has been earmarked for the construction of 427 boreholes.



Surprisingly,



this allocation translates to approximately **192 Million** per borehole!

Meanwhile,



The Abubakar Widi-Jalo Foundation

has, in the last few years, drilled and operationalised **443 boreholes** with approximately **NGN 332 Million**.

With their efficiency, given **N82 Billion**, they will drill **109,300 boreholes**, instead of the 427 that has been proposed in the budget.

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SKEPTICS



2024 BUDGET

Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria

Office Stationeries / Computer Consumables
N707.4 Million

Honorarium & Sitting Allowance
N699.99 Million

Uniforms & Other Clothing
N355 Million

Drugs & Medical Supplies
N500 Million

Magazines & Periodicals
N632.5 Million

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SKEPTICS



2024 BUDGET

Budget of the office of the Chief of staff in the last 5 Years

Chief of Staff to The President

2023
N517.95 Million

2024
N21.22 Billion

2020
N24.35 Million

2021
N76.55 Million

2022
N526.47 Million

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CENTER FOR FISCAL
TRANSPARENCY
& PUBLIC INTEGRITY

**TRANSPARENCY
AND INTEGRITY
INDEX**

VARIABLES
FOR 2024

FINANCIALS

PROCUREMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES

CONTROL OF CORRUPTION

CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT



SKEPTICS



2024 BUDGET

National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control

Honorarium & Sitting Allowance
N58 Million

Materials And Supplies
N615 Million

Travel & Transport - General
N1.1 Billion

Cleaning & Fumigation Services
N156 Million

Refreshment & Meals
N81 Million

Publicity & Advertisements
N588 Million

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SKEPTICS



2024 BUDGET

Nigeria Customs Services

Special Operation Fund
N114.4 Billion

Capital Expenditure
N185.4 Billion

Revenue (Approved For Usage)
N459.3 Billion

Personnel Cost
N151.5 Billion

Other Recurrent Costs (Overhead)
N114.4 Billion

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THE SELF-SERVING BIAS OF THE PUBLIC SERVANT

By Umar Yakubu

“Let none presume to wear an undeserved dignity.” – William Shakespeare.

Since the inauguration of President Bola A. Tinubu and the swift announcement of the drastic removal of fuel subsidy, Nigerians have been immersed in coping with galloping inflation and are still reeling in the shocks of having to contend with several neo-liberal economic measures within a short period. The government, too, has been entangled in trying to manage the battered economy it inherited since 29 May 2023. With such challenges on both sides, no one has really had time to evaluate or even discuss the Buhari regime, because in times of crisis, survival is more paramount than reflection. The government could have taken the wise decision to deal with the facts and slow down on blame.

That’s probably why Mr Femi Adesina, the former spokesman of President Buhari could come out to launch two books. One was about his experiences as a spokesman and the other was about the government he served’s tenure in office. I congratulate him for documenting his experiences. Dr Rueben Abati did the same and I believe every public servant worth his or her salt should document his/her experiences for future generations to learn from. If you don’t write about your time, you probably didn’t serve well while in office. But my concern is that because they are not under any probe, save for Mr Godwin Emefiele, and that’s probably because of his involvement in politics, they think it is OK to talk about their regime as if the tremors are over. It is certainly within their rights to write whenever they deem fit but the timing also matters.

On the day of the book launch, Seun Okinbaloye of Channels TV tried to ask some hard questions regarding the administration’s tenure, because he was probably wondering what the content of the book would be. In all of Adesina’s responses, there was not a single one in which he provided data to defend his position, but he kept deflecting every criticism as “the opinion of the critic,” and he even discarded

economic data as an opinion on how their regime took Nigeria backwards on many indices of development. Even in terms of the naira design, for which people died, he sidetracked the criticism. As a spokesperson, he probably did very well in discharging his duties in defending his erstwhile boss. Anyone with the skills of being able to enable a red herring fallacy can effectively play that role in an environment in which people are not asked hard questions following their tenures in office as an important form of public accountability. I would like to see him interviewed by Rufai Oseni of Arise or Mehdi Hasan of MSNBC on the same questions that Seun sought to ask him. There would be no room for laughter or wriggling about.

Since the present government doesn’t want to talk about past facts, it is good that we remind it of a few of them before another person comes to insult us with alternative facts through a book. Since everyone has the right to write, we wish to remind the past government that by the time it left office, it had printed N27 trillion, which is one of the causes of the inflation we have today. Now, if the N27 trillion were judiciously utilised, the economy would have picked up. It would be nice to read a book on how the funds were used.

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COUNTERING ORGANIZED CRIME PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION: FCT DEPARTMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION ASSESSES CENTER'S READINESS

As part of the Center's efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and response to the menace of organized crime, the Center received a team from the Federal Capital Territory Department of Tertiary Education who were on a quality assurance visit.

The team led by the Head of Department, Umar Abdulrahman was on ground to assess the Center's capacity to provide professional training in countering organized crime. The visit is in line with the Department's vision of making institutions globally competitive and responsive to societal needs, by ensuring that there is an enabling environment for learning to take place.

The professional certificate course program is designed to enhance institutional response by building the capacity of law enforcement practitioners and other stakeholders through education and experience-sharing to domesticate and institutionalize best practices in countering organized crime.

The Center's Countering Organized Crime Program is multi-dimensional approach that is data driven to support law enforcement and other stakeholders with real-time crime data and pattern that will aid their response; it also involves advocacies around 10 organized crime areas including: financial crime, auto theft, grand corruption, arms trafficking, environmental crimes, terrorism, maritime crime, cybercrime, drug crimes and human trafficking to promote knowledge of these crimes.





In December, 2022, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) began an investigation into over N200 billion contract approved during Abdul'aziz Abubakar Yari's Administration as Zamfara State Governor, it is **1542 days** and counting, the probe is ongoing with no outcome in sight

In January, 2020, an Ad hoc Committee of the House of Representatives chaired by Hon. Francis Uduyok commenced a probe into the actual fund released by President Muhammadu Buhari and his predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan for constituency projects; it's **1504 days** and counting, the outcome of the probe is unknown



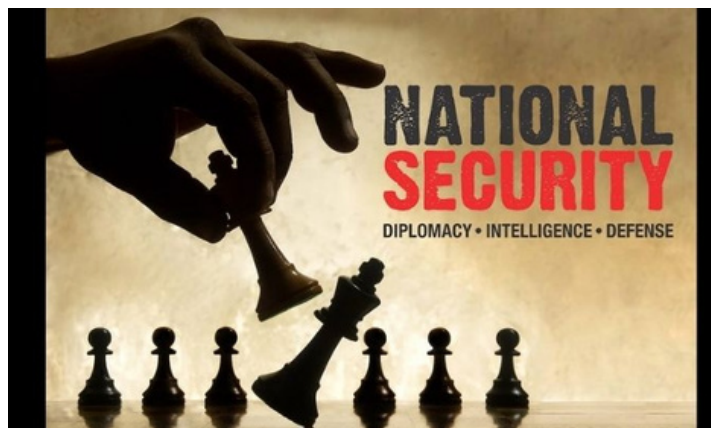
In June 2020, House of Representatives Public Account Committee chaired by Hon. Wole Oke frowned at the failure of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRMIDP) to properly account for the utilization of N25 billion appropriated between 2015 and 2019 fiscal years; it's **1353 days** after the investigative hearing, actions taken are not known.

In May 2020, a Senate Ad hoc Committee chaired by Sen. Olubunmi Ayodeji Adetumbi commenced a probe into alleged N40 billion act of corruption by the Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), it's **1400 days** and counting after the investigative hearing, not much is known about the alleged misappropriation.



MATTERS TO NOTE AND MATTERS ARISING FOR THE IMPENDING “REVIEW” OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY 2019

By Dr. Adoyi Onoja



For the public sector ministries, departments and agencies captured in the National Security Strategy (NSS) 2014 and 2019, what would they say were their observed strengths and weaknesses of the Strategy in their implementation of its provisions in the years the Strategy has been in operation?

This question should be the basis of any review i.e. weighing the strengths and weaknesses of Strategy and by extension the Policy, or if you like what should be retained, improved and/or added in the Strategy and what should be discarded in both the Security Strategy and Security Policy.

The impending REVIEW of the National Security Strategy will make it the second time in the history of the national security strategy that this review will be carried out. I am using the “review” cautiously because this was the position of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), the Office saddled with this responsibility. However, what happened in 2019 was not a REVIEW. What happened in 2019 was a REPRINT of the Strategy. The only review was the replacement of the name of President Goodluck Jonathan and Colonel Sambo Dasuki with President Muhammadu Buhari and Major General Babagana Mungono.

In 2019, the five year SHELVE life of the NSS expired from when it was first COMPILED in 2014. I am using “shelve” and “compile” cautiously. This is because none of the ministries, departments and agencies of the public sector for whom the NSS should guide was ever part of its conception let alone execution in 2014. The NSS was the handiwork of the staff of the ONSA alongside other agencies with military, intelligence and law enforcement orientation. This was my unflinching position. I have had platforms – in the class rooms and in seminars/symposium/conferences – to challenge anyone that claimed that the NSS was not the singular handiwork of the ONSA et al. On one occasion, a retired director of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) validated my position that the NSS was a compilation of the ONSA and similar agencies.

I talked about “shelve” and this was because beginning from the founding edition of the NSS, the only place – and this was for those that had copies – to find the NSS was on the shelf. The NSS has never guided programmes and projects of ministries, departments and agencies of the public sector let alone the private sector. Indeed and as I observed and argued consistently, not even the ONSA used the provisions of the NSS in running what the ONSA called security in Nigeria. This included the lined agencies in the forefront of the ONSA’S security – military, intelligence and law enforcement.

[You can access full article here:](https://cocpng.org/posts/profile/120)
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EXCITING NEWS!

We are thrilled to announce that the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch is evolving!

We are now the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity, reflecting our expanded focus on promoting integrity and accountability in the public sector.

Our commitment to transparency remains unwavering as we continue our mission to foster a culture of fiscal responsibility and ethical governance

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