



MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH

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A publication of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity

21ST INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

18-21 June 2024
Vilnius, Lithuania



Confronting Global Threats Together!

Excited to share another edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch with you.

The month of June saw the convergence of anti-corruption advocates from across the world in Lithuania under the auspices of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). The 21st series of the conference ran on theme: “Confronting Global Threats: Standing Up for Integrity,” saw actors assess and proffer honest solutions to global threats occasioned by corruption and insecurity.

Our highlight for this edition is the presentation of our innovative monitoring mechanism for Nigeria's implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) at a panel organized by the UNCAC Coalition on "Strengthening the United Nations Convention Against Corruption's (UNCAC) Monitoring Mechanism: Promoting Accountability and Civic Space in

the UNCAC Review Process." The session was apt in drawing the attention and mobilizing member states to commit to the implementation of UNCAC.

The Center's UNCAC monitoring mechanism empowers citizens, media, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to actively monitor and assess the government's progress in combating corruption. By promoting evidence-based monitoring and encouraging stakeholder participation, this template sets a new standard for transparency and accountability in Nigeria and serves as a model for other countries to emulate.

We hope that you will find scenes from the IACC and our other interventions in June interesting.

Welcome to the second half of the year!

DIALOGUE ON 611 ONGOING PROBES

As the nation commemorates another Democracy Day, it was an opportunity to rub minds with media and civil society actors on the importance of transparency and accountability of systems and processes in our democratic journey.

This dialogue, chaired by Otive Igbuzor, spotlighted the Center's Probes Monitor portal, a depository of information on grand-corruption-related investigations that were made public between 1999 till date, and have not been concluded.

This portal is designed to raise awareness and draw the attention of relevant stakeholders to advocate and promote the conclusion of the abandoned probes while also serving as a platform for citizens to demand accountability.

It's unacceptable that out of 614 probes initiated by various governmental bodies that are in the public domain, only three are known to have been concluded. This alarming discrepancy underscores a significant accountability gap and raises serious questions about the effectiveness and commitment of the National Assembly, and other public institutions in pursuing transparency and justice.

Details here: <https://bit.ly/4cgNHI9>



IACC 2024: PERSPECTIVES ON MEDIA ROLES IN DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST CORRUPTION IN AFRICA

The workshop organized by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development on the sideline of the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Conference in Lithuania aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the complexity of corruption's effects on human rights and democracy in Africa.



The workshop emphasized the role of the media as a weapon to defend democracy's inherent worth against threats from fragility and violations of human rights, which remains a concern to the region's democracy.

Moderated by the Executive Director of the Center, Umar Yakubu, panelists noted that the absence of the rule of law and social contract has led to low confidence and distrust in democracy across the continent. Media ownership and undue political influence are also factors that have continued to militate against media effectiveness in democracy, and the lack of legal protection for whistleblowers in most African countries remains a challenge.

The session called for a consensus across the continent that will push for the independence of the media. It also recommended better economic and security protection for journalists and media actors in order for the media to perform its important role of defending democracy and human rights against corruption in Africa.



Scenes from the Center's participation at the 2024 IACC



IACC 2024: Photos Speak



Image Source: IACC flickr

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
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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 \$75M TRAINING FOR DUMMIES: ABUJA METRO RAIL EDITION



As usual, here comes another story of Nigerian leaders' dubious extravagance. We are talking about the noble endeavor of training personnel for the Abuja Light Rail project at only \$75 million, a mere pittance compared to the original \$128 million.

Surely, training Nigerian personnel to oversee railway signals at 12 stations must be akin to teaching rocket science. Perhaps, it's because they need to master the ancient art of turning trains into spaceships.

Minister Wike's Herculean effort to cut down the cost to \$75 million is nothing short of legendary. One can only marvel at the complexity of the additional work required. After all, cleaning up 12 stations must be as arduous as scrubbing the Great Wall of China with a toothbrush.

Meanwhile, the military's reluctance to share land in Maitama 2 District is the plot twist we didn't see coming. Their steadfast grip on barracks ensures civilians remain at bay, thus keeping the budget a cool N1.15 trillion.

And so Wike's promise to negotiate with the military, because, of course, diplomacy is always easier than simply building elsewhere - adds another layer to this epic saga. A true testament to the complexities of urban development in Nigeria, especially when politics denies transparency a chance!

EMEFIELE: THE NIGERIA'S PICASSO OF PAPER MONEY

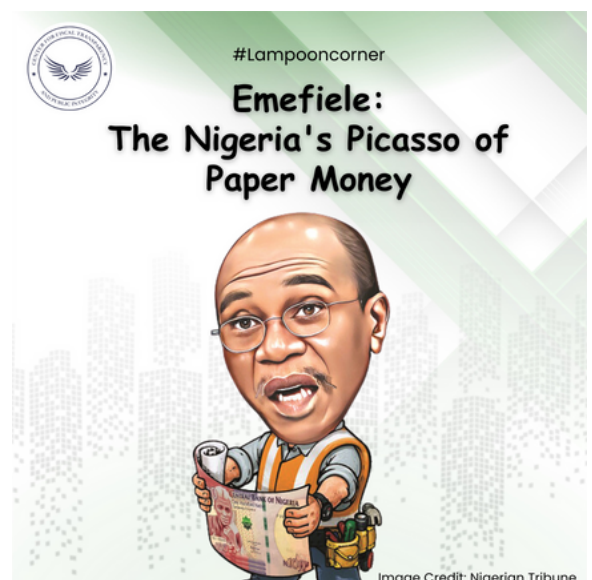
One of the most popular symphonies of corruption recently played out in Nigeria's apex bank, CBN, where after a series of allegations that trailed its immediate former Governor, Godwin Emefiele, Nigerians woke up to another dizzying shock. With a flourish of his pen, Emefiele allegedly orchestrated the printing of N684.5 million fresh naira notes using N18.96 billion. You heard it right. It means using N18.96 million to print cash that's of 27000% less value.

But, well, justice has prevailed as the honorable court granted our fiscal hero bail to the tune of a mere N300 million. A small price to pay for a man of such distinguished pedigree, wouldn't you agree?

The allegation, whether true or false, isn't surprising as Emefiele is not merely a one-hit wonder. He has a repertoire of charges against him that would make even the most audacious embezzler blush with envy. From breaching court orders to disobeying the sacred directives of the Central Bank Act, Emefiele's portfolio of alleged offenses reads like the greatest compilation of corruption.

And let us not forget the *pièce de résistance*: the naira swap policy, a stroke of genius that transformed the nation's currency into a political pawn in the game of electoral chess. You know, the lengths one would go to in order to combat vote buying.

Yet amidst the chaos and controversy, one thing remains certain: in the theatre of Nigeria's public management where honesty is a foreign concept and integrity is as elusive as a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, Emefiele's legacy as the Picasso of Paper Money will surely endure for generations to come.





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.





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