



WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Transparency Watch

A Publication of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity



Dear Readers,

Welcome to another edition of the Monthly Transparency Watch, your source for updates on transparency, accountability, and integrity initiatives in Nigeria. As always, we remain committed to bringing you insightful stories and updates that reflect our ongoing efforts to enhance governance and fiscal responsibility across the country.

We are also thrilled to announce a strategic partnership with the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) to advance asset recovery and management in Nigeria. Over the next three months, the Center will intensify efforts to promote knowledge of Nigeria's Asset Recovery and Management regime, enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the recovery and management of assets. This collaboration is a significant step towards combating financial crimes, strengthening governance, and ensuring recovered assets are utilized effectively for the public good.

In this edition, we highlight the launch of the Anti-Corruption Prevention Programme for Local Governments (ACPPPLG), a collaborative effort between the ICPC and the Center aimed at enhancing financial transparency at the grassroots level.

We also feature our recent capacity-building initiatives focused on public interest disclosure and accountability. These efforts underscore our dedication to empowering public officers with the skills needed to uphold integrity in public service.

Our spotlight also shines on the recent retreat of the ICPC Board and Management, where Dr. Umar Yakubu, the Executive Director of the Center, delivered a presentation on embedding integrity as a cornerstone of anti-corruption efforts. His call for leadership-driven integrity resonates with our core mission of strengthening public sector ethics.

We encourage you to stay engaged as we continue to share updates, success stories, and insights on advancing transparency and accountability in Nigeria. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome as we work together to promote a more transparent and accountable public sector.

Thank you for your support, always.

Warm regards,

Victor Agi
Head, Public Relations

ICPC, Center Launch Anti-Corruption Prevention Programme for Local Governments (ACPPLG)

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), in collaboration with the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity, officially launched the Anti-Corruption Prevention Programme for Local Governments (ACPPLG). This initiative aims to enhance financial transparency, accountability, and good governance across Nigeria's 774 local government areas (LGAs).

In his address, the Chairman of the ICPC, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, underscored the critical need for reform at the local government level. He revealed that over 60% of corruption cases investigated by the ICPC involved the diversion of funds intended for essential services such as healthcare and infrastructure. Dr. Aliyu emphasized that the Supreme Court's July 2024 ruling on local government financial autonomy presents a unique opportunity to address these challenges by ensuring direct disbursement of funds to local councils, thereby eliminating undue state interference.

The ICPC boss highlighted that the ACPPLG is designed to detect and prevent the misuse of public funds, ensuring that resources allocated for national development are judiciously applied. He stressed that the ACPPLG will establish monitoring mechanisms to track governance performance, and fosters inclusivity by ensuring marginalized groups participate in decision-making.

He said that ACPPLG will focus on five key governance areas including Fiscal Transparency, Open Procurement, Human Resources, Citizen Engagement and Control of Corruption. These pillars, he said, will serve as benchmarks for assessing local government performance and ensuring adherence to best practices.

On its part, the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity, serving as a technical partner, will champion the monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ACPPLG. The Center's Executive Director, Dr. Umar Yakubu, while presenting the electronic monitoring dashboard, noted that the Center will also support in building capacity of local government officials to institutionalize fiscal transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

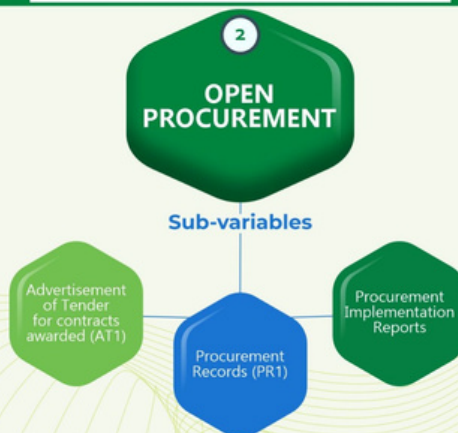
Other key stakeholders also expressed their support for the initiative. The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi, represented by the Director of Public Prosecution, M.B. Abubakar, lauded the Supreme Court's judgment affirming financial autonomy for local governments as a significant step toward enhancing their capacity to deliver essential services. He reiterated the federal government's commitment to promoting transparency and good governance at all levels.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption, Emmanuel Udende, represented at the event by Sen. Anthony Siyako Yaro affirmed the legislature's dedication to enacting and strengthening laws that promote accountability and transparency. He assured that the committee would work to support policies ensuring responsible management of public funds, with a focus on translating local government allocations into tangible development outcomes.



ACPP-LG VARIABLES AND SUB-VARIABLES

ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA



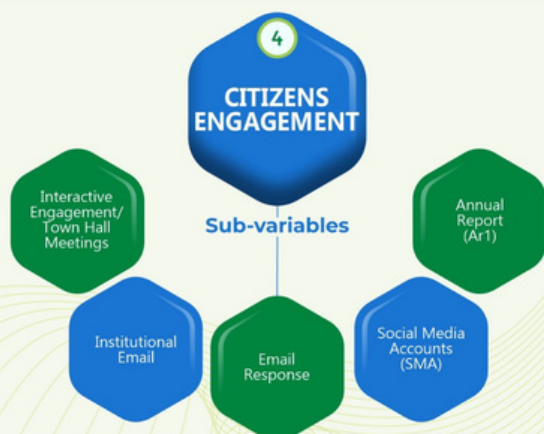
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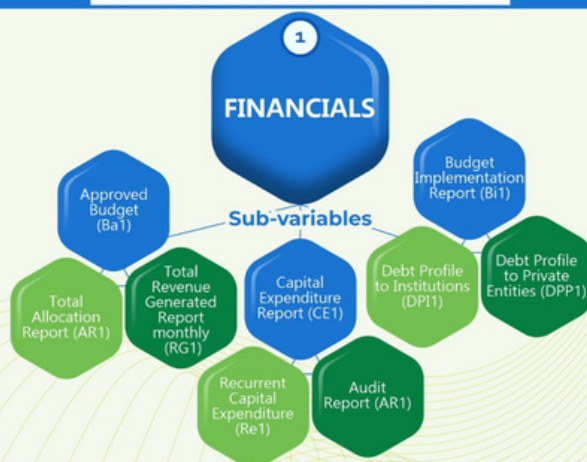
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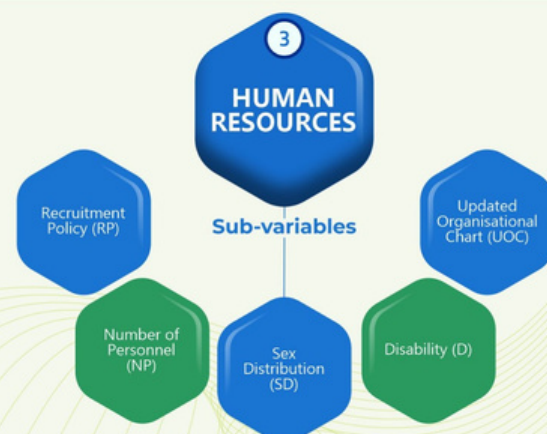
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OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE

ACCOUNTABILITY & CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME (ACPPLG) FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA

DATE: APRIL 3RD, 2025 VENUE: Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Center, CBD Abuja

TIME: 11:00AM Zoom Meeting ID: 844 5150 5391 Passcode: ACPPLG

Partners:

Center For Fiscal
Transparency &
Public Integrity

Nigerian
Bar
Association

Center, Partners Build Capacity of Public Officers on Effective Public Interest Disclosure, Accountability

As part of its commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in the public sector, the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity held a capacity building workshop on Public Interest Disclosure and Accountability for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). The workshop was organized in partnership with the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) and the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL).

The event brought together key public officers from across federal institutions to deepen their understanding of the role of whistleblower policies and the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act in strengthening internal accountability mechanisms. The workshop served as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of proactive information disclosure and the protection of whistleblowers, especially in an era of public distrust in governance.

The Center's Executive Director, Dr. Umar Yakubu while speaking emphasized the need for MDAs to move beyond policy statements to actual implementation of accountability tools such as whistleblower frameworks and FOI compliance.

Experts and facilitators unpacked the legal and institutional frameworks for public interest disclosures in Nigeria, drawing attention to the Federal Government's whistleblower policy and its relevance to anti-corruption efforts. The sessions also explored how public institutions can create safe, internal channels for reporting misconduct, while also understanding their responsibilities under the FOI Act to proactively publish and make accessible information of public interest.



Scenes from ACPG-LG Framework Presentation



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He recommended the establishment of independent audit units that report directly to the Board and advocated for a merit-based system in hiring and promotions to eliminate favoritism. Additionally, he stressed the importance of strict enforcement of asset declarations and conflict-of-interest policies as vital measures to prevent internal corruption and maintain the agency's credibility.

Dr. Yakubu also emphasized that cultivating a culture of integrity requires leadership commitment from the top down. He recommended consistent ethical behavior from leaders and regular training to ensure staff alignment with integrity values. Tools such as employee surveys and recognition programs were suggested to monitor and promote ethical adherence, and fosters an environment where integrity is both practiced and measurable.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Yakubu articulated the broader mission of the ICPC: to lead by example within Nigeria's public sector. By embedding transparency and accountability into its institutional framework, the ICPC can strengthen its moral authority and operational effectiveness. Integrity, he affirmed, is not just a goal but an ongoing commitment that must permeate every level of the organization, ultimately enhancing the commission's impact in the fight against corruption.

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07 APRIL 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT

PARTNERSHIP WITH GIABA TO ADVANCE ASSET RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

We are excited to announce a strategic partnership with the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) to drive forward a critical initiative: Sensitization and Advocacy for Improved Asset Recovery and Management in Nigeria.

Over the next three months, the Center will intensify efforts to promote the knowledge of Nigeria's Asset Recovery and management regime, enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency in the recovery and management of assets in Nigeria. This project will support overall efforts to combat financial crimes, strengthen governance, and ensure that recovered assets are effectively utilized for the benefit of the Nigerian people.

This partnership with GIABA reaffirms the Center's dedication to fostering a culture of accountability and good governance in Nigeria. Asset recovery is not just about reclaiming stolen wealth; it is about restoring public trust, funding development projects, and deterring future corruption.

We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and the general public, to ensure that this initiative delivers tangible results and builds a system where recovered assets are managed effectively and contribute to the sustainable growth of our nation.

Stay tuned for updates on our progress, and join us in advocating for a more transparent and accountable Nigeria.

#AssetRecovery #AntiCorruption #Transparency #GoodGovernance

Annoucer

Victor Agi

Head, Public Relations

Contact info:

☎ 08033278895

✉ v.agi@fiscaltransparency.org

INFOGRAPHICS CORNER



Restoring proceeds of corruption to their rightful owner is a development imperative.



By returning corrupt funds, we can mobilize resources to reduce poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also the right thing to do.

Supported by



– Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director, UNODC

Bring Back What's Ours: Track it. Recover it. Use it for Us!



**DO YOU
KNOW?**

Section 1(a) specifies that POCA establishes an "effective legal and institutional framework" for recovering and managing crime proceeds, including benefits and tools used in unlawful activities. This ensures a systematic approach to tackle illicit wealth.

Bring Back What's Ours: Track it. Recover it. Use it for Us!



**DO YOU
KNOW?**

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The Proceeds of Crime (Recovery & Management) Act 2022 was signed into law to seize, confiscate, and manage properties suspected to come from illegal activities, ensuring they benefit Nigeria.

Context:



Section 1 outlines POCA's objectives, which include creating a legal framework to recover proceeds of crime and manage them for public good. This means the law targets assets gained from crimes like fraud or corruption, aiming to redirect them to benefit Nigerians through proper management.

Bring Back What's Ours: Track it. Recover it. Use it for Us!



**What you Need to
Know About the
Asset Recovery
Process**

Investigation

Detectives gather evidence to find stolen assets.



Tracing

Following the money trail across borders.



Legal Action

Proving the theft in court.



Recovery

Seizing stolen assets back.



Return

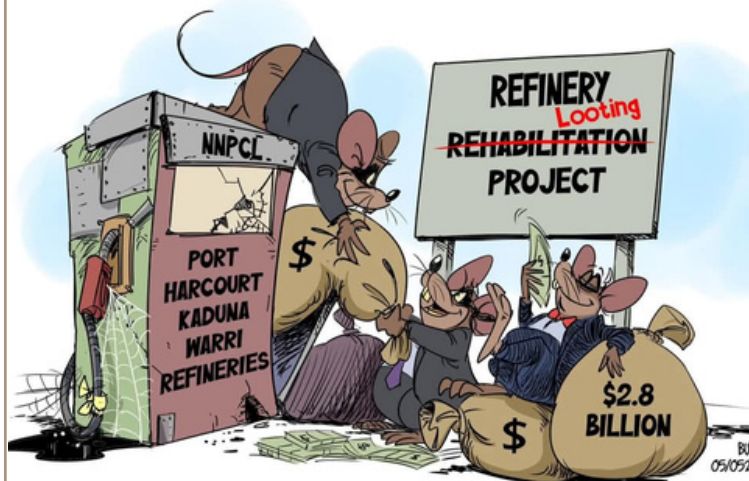
Giving the recovered assets back to the people.



Bring Back What's Ours: Track it. Recover it. Use it for Us!

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When the real refining happens in bank accounts...



#SatireCorner 14

"BRING BACK WHAT'S OURS: TRACK IT. RECOVER IT. USE IT FOR US."

**OIL FIRMS LAUGH WHILE GOVERNMENT
AND ANTI-GRAFT AGENCIES NAP:**

**A N61.5 BILLION
RECOVERY CIRCUS**





Contact us at:
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