



Welcome to our

Monthly Transparency Watch

A Publication of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch, where we spotlight ongoing efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance across Nigeria.

This month, the Center took bold steps to spotlight the state of Nigeria's asset recovery regime through advocacy engagements held in Kano and Kaduna with support from the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). These roundtable discussions brought together professional bodies, civil society organizations, and key government agencies to identify implementation gaps, raise awareness, and build consensus around strengthening Nigeria's asset recovery and management framework.

Participants emphasized that asset recovery is not just about retrieving stolen wealth, it is a critical tool for restoring public trust and advancing development, especially in an era where illicit financial flows continue to undermine national progress. We are proud to be at the forefront of this advocacy, ensuring that recovered assets are effectively utilized and transparently managed.

We are also excited to announce a new partnership with the Tunani Initiative aimed at promoting good governance, civic engagement, and local government accountability. This collaboration will further our mission to strengthen institutions at the grassroots and empower citizens to play active roles in shaping public policy and demanding accountability.

As always, we invite you to explore the stories, insights, and updates in this edition, and join us in building a culture of integrity that truly serves the Nigerian people.

Victor Agi
Head, Public Relations

Strengthening Nigeria's Asset Recovery and Anti-Corruption Framework, Center Takes Advocacy to Kano

In Kano, the Center, with support from the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), convened an advocacy event on Nigeria's asset recovery regime.

The interactive session brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), civil society organizations, anti-corruption agencies, and other relevant government institutions.

Discussions explored the implementation of relevant legislations, highlighting both progress made through frameworks such as the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and persistent gaps around transparency, restitution for victims, and international cooperation.

The consensus from stakeholders was that “prevention is better than cure,” with participants underscoring the urgent need to strengthen institutions, curb illicit financial flows, and entrench transparency and accountability in public finance management.

This event is part of the Center's continued efforts to promote active civic engagement and ensure that asset recovery efforts translate into real benefits for the Nigerian people.

#AssetRecovery #Transparency
#AntiCorruption #UNCAC #GIABA
#PublicIntegrity



Center, Tunani Initiative Sign MoU to Advance Good Governance and Local Accountability

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tunani Initiative, marking the beginning of a strategic collaboration to promote shared objectives in good governance, civic engagement, and local government accountability.

The partnership is grounded in the mutual belief that transparent governance and active citizen participation are key drivers of sustainable development. By combining the Center's expertise in public sector accountability with Tunani Initiative's grassroots engagement and policy innovation capacity, the collaboration will focus on deepening transparency at the local government level and strengthening civic voices across Nigeria.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, both organizations emphasized the importance of building institutional frameworks that are inclusive, accountable, and responsive to the needs of citizens. The MoU provides a framework for joint research, advocacy campaigns, capacity building, and community-focused projects aimed at improving governance outcomes.



Kenya's Bold Shift to E-Procurement Should Jolt Nigeria into Action

In this article, the Center's Public Relations Lead, Victor Agi noted that Kenya's bold shift to e-procurement should jolt Nigeria into action.

“Despite repeated promises, Nigeria has yet to fully embrace e-procurement, even though the benefits are clear, the infrastructure partially exists, and the cost of inaction is colossal.”

In a quietly assertive move, the Government of Kenya issued a directive on June 5, 2025, mandating all principal secretaries, heads of state corporations, and procuring entities to transition fully to an electronic procurement (e-GP) system by June 10. Although the memo was not initially made public, its content and intent are clear and commendable. It signals a serious political will to reform public procurement, block leakages, and institutionalize transparency. For Nigeria, this development should serve as a loud wake-up call.

Procurement remains the financial heart of any government's operations. It's where intentions become contracts and public money is spent, ideally for the public good. But in Nigeria, procurement has become a black hole where opacity thrives, records vanish, contracts are inflated, and cronies profit at the expense of millions. Despite repeated promises, Nigeria has yet to fully embrace e-procurement, even though the benefits are clear, the infrastructure partially exists, and the cost of inaction is colossal.

Kenya's transition to e-procurement is not just about digitization, it is about building public trust. The e-GP platform allows every stage of a procurement process to be tracked: from the publication of tenders to bid submission, evaluation, contract award, and payment. Every entry leaves a digital footprint. Every actor leaves a trail. This system, when properly enforced, drastically limits human discretion and opportunities for fraud. It builds confidence among genuine contractors and enhances the efficiency of public service delivery.



Nigeria, by contrast, continues to operate with patchy portals, poorly enforced rules, and high-level resistance to transparency. The National Open Contracting Portal (NOCOPO), introduced by the Bureau of Public Procurement to host procurement data, is underutilized and inconsistently updated. Many Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) still award contracts outside the public eye, bypassing open competitive bidding and flouting the Public Procurement Act, 2007. State-level portals are even worse, some are non-existent, others merely symbolic. This lack of transparency is not just a policy failure; it is a license for corruption.

The failure to institutionalize e-procurement is serious. The World Bank has estimated that digitising procurement could save Nigeria up to \$270 million annually, with a ₦1.6 billion investment in 2020 showing promise, but the impact remains unrealised. Yet, more disturbingly, corruption in procurement in Nigeria is neither rare nor abstract. Between 2018 and 2020, the current Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, has, in a Premium Times report noted that, contract and procurement fraud resulted in estimated losses of ₦2.9 trillion taxpayer funds. This figure loosely translates to lost hospitals, unfunded schools, collapsed infrastructure, and deepening poverty.

SCENES FROM FROM JUNE



Mobilizing Action for Transparent Asset Recovery in Northern Nigeria



In Kaduna, the Center, with the support of the Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), convened a roundtable discussion on Nigeria's asset recovery regime.

The forum brought together members of selected professional bodies, government agencies, and civil society organizations to discuss the role of stakeholders in mobilizing actions against illicit financial flow, recovery of stolen assets, and management of same. Participants emphasized that asset recovery and management are critical for national development, particularly as illicit financial flows and looted assets continue to weaken public service delivery and economic stability.

Legal practitioners, journalists and civil society stakeholders were urged to educate and sustain public awareness on the processes and legal frameworks guiding the recovery and management of stolen assets. The roundtable reiterated that citizen demand for transparency and accountability is not just essential but must become a central feature in the fight against public sector corruption.

This engagement in Kaduna follows similar events held in Abuja and Kano recently as part of the Center's ongoing nationwide advocacy aimed at mobilizing professional associations, civic groups, and anti-corruption stakeholders to advance accountability, promote the recovery of stolen public wealth, and restore public trust in governance.

#assetrecovery
#anticorruption
#illicitfinancialflows

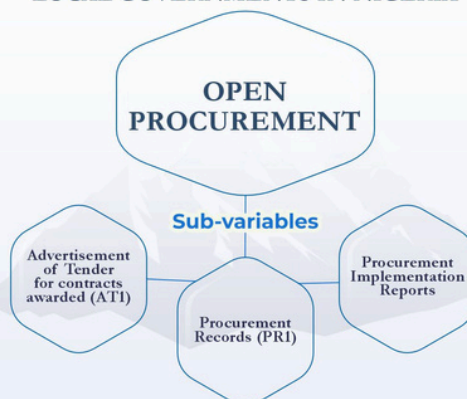
#transparency
#publicintegrity

Accountability and Corruption Prevention Program for Local Government (ACPP-LG) Variables

ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA



ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



TECHNICAL PARTNER:



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



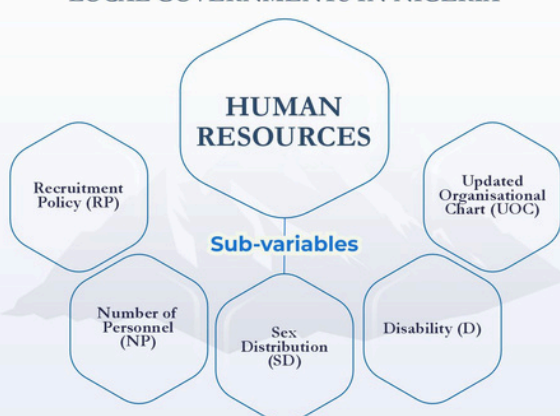
SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



TECHNICAL PARTNER:



ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



TECHNICAL PARTNER:



ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



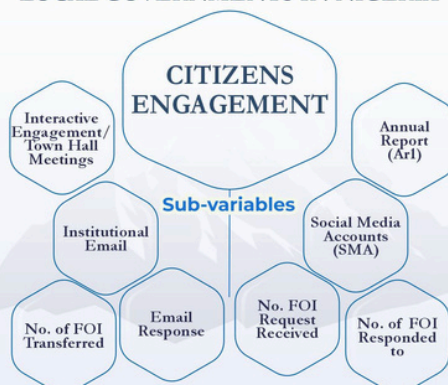
SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



TECHNICAL PARTNER:



ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN NIGERIA



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



SUPPORTING PARTNERS:



TECHNICAL PARTNER:



A Peep into Phase 1 & 2 of Nigeria's National Anti-Corruption Strategy Implementation

By Victor Agi

Background and Context

The Nigeria Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), approved by the Federal Executive Council on July 5, 2017, for the initial period between 2017–2021 and extended to 2022–2026, is one of many reforms and efforts in Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts. Coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Justice (FMOJ) and the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR), it is structured around five pillars: prevention of corruption, public engagement, ethical reorientation, enforcement and sanctions, and recovery of proceeds of crime. These pillars aim to address corruption holistically, from preventive measures to punitive actions and asset recovery.

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) has been a partner and observer in this initiative, leveraging our expertise in transparency and public sector integrity to support NACS development and monitoring. Despite the strategy's robust framework, our assessments indicate that its implementation has not fully translated into systemic changes within MDAs, particularly at state and local government levels, where corruption remains pervasive.

It is important to note that the NACS aligns with Nigeria's international obligations under the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption (2001), the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC, 2003), and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC, 2003). These commitments demonstrate Nigeria's intent to meet global anti-corruption standards, yet the gap between policy and practice remains a concern for civil society.

The NACS Framework and Objectives

The NACS was designed to address the root causes of corruption by strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, mainstream anti-corruption principles into governance, enhance public engagement, and improve enforcement and asset recovery mechanisms. Its objectives are critical to transforming Nigeria's public sector into one characterized by transparency and accountability.

The 2022–2026 phase, validated on July 26, 2024, introduces sector-specific strategies to address corruption in areas like health, education, and procurement. It also includes an Anti-Corruption Funding Framework (AFF) to ensure resources are available for implementation across federal, state, and local levels. While this is a welcome development, it's unclear what measure are put in place to ensure transparent allocation and utilization of funds to maximize impact.



Read more here: <https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/kenyas-bold-shift-to-e-procurement-should-jolt-nigeria-into-action/>



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