



MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH

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A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY



TOP NEWS

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Promoting Transparency: CeFTPI at BPSR Seminar on Public Procurement Reforms

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NEW PUBLICATION

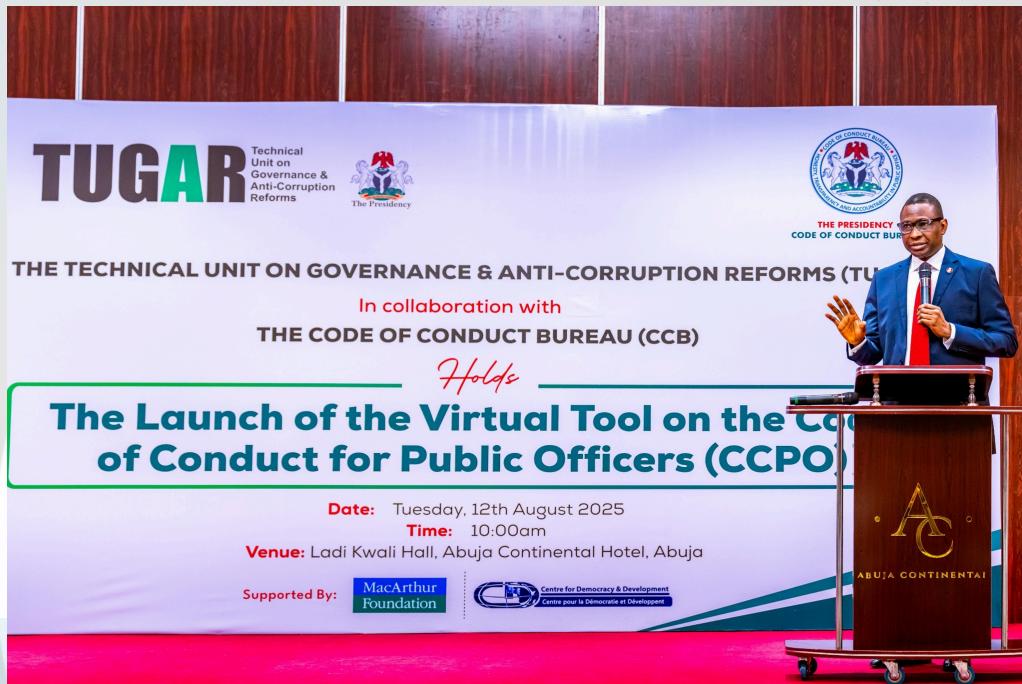


Dear Reader,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch, where we highlight ongoing efforts to promote accountability, transparency and good governance through out Nigeria. Enhanced transparency boosts public trust, contributes to economic growth and development, and empowers citizens to engage in decision making processes and hold their leaders accountable.

As we remain committed to promoting transparency and accountability in governance, here's something you should know: your unwavering support is our driving force. Thank you for your continued support. We invite you to explore the stories, insights and observations we've shared and remember to stay the course.

CEFTPI URGES ADOPTION OF VIRTUAL TOOL ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS



The Center participated in the Launch of the Virtual Tool on the Code of Conduct for Public Officers (CCPO), an initiative of The Technical Unit on Governance & Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR) in collaboration with the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB).

Unveiled on Tuesday, 12th August, 2025 at Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja Continental Hotel, this virtual tool is designed to improve access to the code of conduct for public officers while promoting Integrity, accountability and good governance.

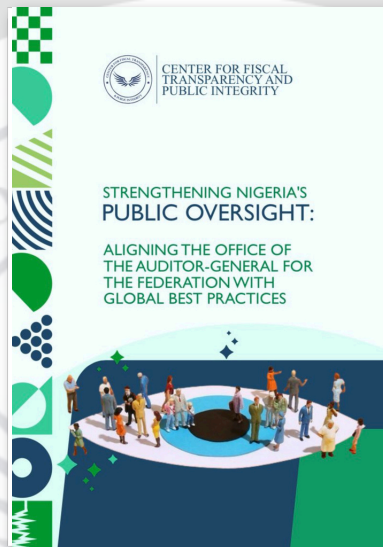
In her keynote address, Mrs Didi Walson-Jack, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, described the tool as a “compass” developed to guide public servants while eliminating ignorance as a defense for misconduct. She also emphasized the need for it to be regularly updated and integrated into onboarding and career development programmes for civil servants.

Mrs Jane Adidu Onwumere, Director of TUGAR, also explained that this project aligns with Nigeria’s obligations under the UN convention against Corruption: providing a cost effective, accessible code of conduct training while also incorporating mechanisms to closely monitor and track compliance among public servants, thereby strengthening anti-corruption and transparency efforts across the public sector.

A key highlight of the event was a live presentation of the tool, providing participants with insights on its features and intended impacts.

The Center commends this initiative and recognizes this tool as a practical step towards reinforcing accountability in public service. Although there is still work to be done; consistent monitoring to ensure this tool isn’t underutilized.

STRENGTHENING NIGERIA'S PUBLIC OVERSIGHT: ALIGNING THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR - GENERAL FOR THE FEDERATION WITH GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES



We are excited to share our new publication now available on our website
www.fiscaltransparency.org

This Publication details the current state of the audit function as a tool for enhanced public financial management in Nigeria with a focus on the institutional role and operational capacity which includes inadequate funding, limited independence, delayed reports, weak compliance and under developed citizen engagements utilising audit reports from major government agencies: Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA).

This analysis highlights the urgent need to publish all outstanding audits on www.oaugf.ng with user friendly summaries, visualisations and downloadable dataset to improve public access, include metrics on recovered funds and resolved audit queries to enhance transparency, participate in African Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (AFROSAI) Initiatives to adopt regional standards and to partner with civil society organisations to analyse audit reports and to propose policy recommendations, amplifying public oversights.

Aligning the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation with the best practices is crucial for enhancing transparency, strengthening public oversight and restoring public trust in financial governance.

Explore the full publication on our website.



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER, HONORS THE INVITATION FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (IVLP).

The Executive Director of the Center Umar Yakubu, Ph.D was honoured to have been selected for the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) On Demand project for Nigeria, titled "Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Government,".

The program, titled "Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Government," is designed for Nigerian participants to explore U.S. government systems and the role of various groups in fostering transparency and accountability. The activities are structured to help participants achieve professional goals related to transparency and anti-corruption efforts.

Based on our work in Nigeria and beyond, we were selected for knowledge exchange that promote transparency and accountability in government at federal, state, and local levels. We also examined the investigation and prosecution of fraud and corruption, and the roles of citizens, media, academia, and civil society in these efforts.

The programme entailed :

1. Washington, D.C. (August 16-20): The themes include federal perspectives on government transparency, an introduction to U.S. federalism, the role of watchdog organizations, and U.S. leadership in global anti-corruption initiatives.
2. Jackson, Mississippi (August 20-23): This portion of the trip focused on citizen engagement and the media's role in transparency, state government accountability mechanisms, and the rule of law and the judiciary.
3. Milwaukee, Wisconsin (August 23-27): The themes for this city are the U.S.-Nigeria relationship at the local level, the investigation of financial fraud and corruption, and local government accountability mechanisms. The schedule includes attending a Common Council meeting, a meeting with the City Comptroller's office to learn about the Open Checkbook portal, and discussions with the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service.

We are grateful to the US Department of State and the US Embassy in Nigeria for the support and pledge to continue taking proactive measures that enhance good governance.

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY: CEFTPI AT BPSR SEMINAR ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REFORMS



The Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) hosted a Lunch Time Reform Seminar on Public Procurement Reforms: Enhancing Efficiency, Effectiveness and value for money in the 21st century - Challenges and the way forward in Abuja.

BPSR Director General, Dr Dasuki I. Arabi called for the adoption of digital solutions to bring transparency and accountability to government contracting. He reaffirmed BPSR's commitment to reforms that will strengthen public trust.

This seminar included a keynote presentation on "Overcoming the Challenges in Effective Public Procurement" which includes: weak enforcement, oversight gaps and political interference. Emphasis were made on value for money procurement as it is vital for national development.

The Center restated its commitment to fiscal transparency and the need for open contracting, accessible procurement data and citizen engagement to ensure procurement processes translate to tangible community impact.

SCENES FROM AUGUST

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TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT AT THE GRASSROOT LEVEL: WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.



An Overview of our X Space Discussion on Local Government Governance

Date: 29th August, 2025 **X:** @FTransparencyNG

Our recent X Space discussion brought together the following Guest Speakers: M.A Iliasu - Strategic Communication Officer, CeFTPI, Godwin O. Elaigwu Esq - Principle Partner, Godwin O. And Elaigwu Chambers and Abdulkareem O. Abdullateef - Executive Director, Saving African Youths Dream Initiative (SAYDi) to converse on what makes an effective administration in Local Governments. This was centered on Supreme Court's ruling on Local Government Autonomy and its effects on societal development so far.

Key Points from the Discussions

- Local Governments struggle with accountability because of power imbalance; overbearing control of state governments and limited oversight organizations. The Supreme Court's ruling marks a turning point towards accountability and reform, ensuring that local government administrations are answerable to the citizens.
- Direct Allocation of funds as ordered by the Supreme Court is a landmark as Local Governments will have more control over local revenue, staff recruitment and project execution. This will enhance fiscal transparency and independent auditing at the grassroots level.
- Political influence has been the most significant barrier in Local Government Governance highlighting the delays in fund disbursement as well as appointment of local government leaders and enforcement of the ruling will eliminate this barrier. However, more civil society organizations should be engaged.
- Local Government Autonomy reinforces the role of citizens as active stakeholders in governance, empowers them to directly monitor and influence how resources are managed at the local level and are encouraged to hold their leaders accountable. Increased citizen engagement improves decision making, improved sense of ownership and wellbeing, enhances transparency and accountability and builds trust.

The Supreme Court's ruling on Local Government Autonomy will be the foundation of grassroots development if implemented.

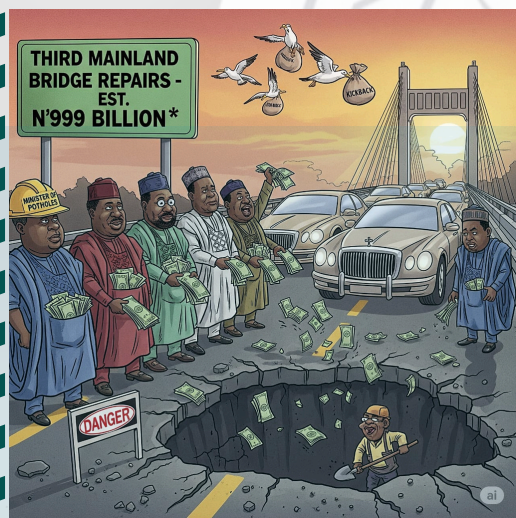
Don't miss our Next Space on **Transparency and Integrity Index (TII)**.



In the land where wealth's allure takes hold,
And justice's tales are bought and sold,
A big man's case, with billions spent,
Is quietly dropped, with no lament.

But for the poor, who steal to eat,
The law's embrace is cold and complete.
They face the cell, the judge's frown,

While the grand fraudster holds the crown.
The lesson is simple, clear and stark:
The bigger the theft, the less the dark.
For those with billions, freedom's sweet;
The little thief knows only defeat



In a bold move, the Federal Government has unveiled a plan to repair the Third Mainland Bridge for “over N3 trillion.” Minister of Works David Umahi framed the figure not as a budget but as a “reinvestment into our national psyche.”

This is no ordinary repair; it's a “spiritual and structural rebirth.” The astronomical cost is justified by innovative features like self-healing, nano-composite tarmac and “artistic light shows” on every pillar.

Umahi dismissed critics as lacking vision, stating the project will be a monument to a new era of infrastructure. The nation now waits to see what a N3 trillion bandage looks like.



Fiscal Indiscipline

In a dusty, undisclosed chamber, Nigeria's political class are at work.

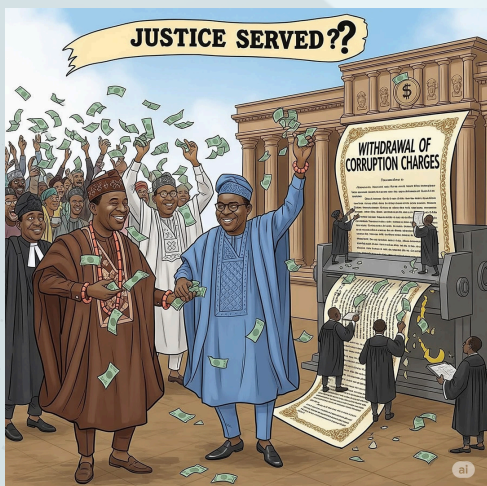
With the grace of a surgeon and the precision of a burglar, they operate on a particularly stubborn piggy bank, the “FUTURE NATIONAL BUDGET”.



For decades, Nigeria's quest for a national airline has been a satirical cycle of grand promises and grounded planes, with each new iteration becoming a monument to unfulfilled potential.



Inspite of all the traveling by the president and state governors, a trickle of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have come in.



The federal government has unveiled its special program, Operation: The Great Forgiveness, for high-profile citizens charged with corruption by the EFCC. The EFCC spends months building a meticulous case, only for the government to swiftly intervene. The charges are not dropped due to a lack of evidence, but rather for the "interest of the people."

The pardoned individual is viewed not as a criminal, but as a misunderstood patriot and a victim of bureaucratic oversight. The EFCC, left with a sense of déjà vu, simply moves on to its next case.

This cycle highlights a system where justice appears to bend in favour of those with power, while the public is left to wonder if the rule of law is merely a guideline rather than a rule.

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