



MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH

SEPTEMBER EDITION

MONDAY

OCTOBER, 6TH

2025

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY



TOP NEWS

The Center Unveils The 5th Edition of the Transparency and Integrity Index

THE Executive Director unveils the ACPP-LG framework AS ICPC Hosts Media Dialogue in Kano to Strengthen the Press Role in Promoting Accountability and Transparency

THE Center Launches Transparency, Accountability, and Corruption Risk Assessment (TACRA) Initiative



Center For Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) Launches Transparency Accountability and Corruption Risk Assessment (TACRA) Initiative

The tool marks a significant stride in CeFTPI's mission to strengthen governance, promote public sector accountability, and combat corruption in Nigeria.



The Center Participates in the Launch of Nigeria's Cyber Diplomacy Unit

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the Cyber Diplomacy Unit with a view to coordinate Nigeria's cyber-related foreign policy, to enhance national cyber resilience and strengthen Nigeria's influence in global cyberspace governance.



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.

THE CENTER PARTICIPATES IN THE LAUNCH OF NIGERIA'S CYBER DIPLOMACY UNIT



On the 3rd of September, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the Cyber Diplomacy Unit with a view to coordinate Nigeria's cyber-related foreign policy, to enhance national cyber resilience and strengthen Nigeria's influence in global cyberspace governance.

The establishment of the Cyber Diplomacy Unit signifies a Strategic advancement with global digital governance. With Cyber threat becoming increasingly complex and borderless, this initiative highlights the Ministry's recognition of Cybersecurity as an integral aspect of national security and international relations.

The Center's participation and presentation in the Inaugural Seminar highlights our commitment towards the advancement of anticipatory, cyber, and digital diplomacy. In our view, digital diplomacy can enhance international cooperation in the effective tracking and recovery of illicit assets.

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT (TACRA): NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



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

TACRA reviews MDAs sequentially, offering an in-depth analysis of systemic vulnerabilities. The initiative leverages advanced technology and methodologies consistent with global standards, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). It's designed to:

- **Map Corruption Hotspots:** Pinpoint high-risk areas in budgeting, procurement, and service delivery.
- **Promote Preventive Measures:** Recommend reforms to strengthen internal controls, whistleblower protection, and institutional responsiveness.
- **Empower Citizens and Oversight Bodies:** Publish accessible reports that drive advocacy, inform policy reforms, and support judicial interventions. This ensures that the public, as the ultimate stakeholders, can demand accountability.

The inaugural assessment, code-named TACRA 001, focuses on the Niger Delta Development Commission and highlights critical corruption risks while providing concrete recommendations to enhance its operational accountability. This assessment sets the precedent for future phased reviews of other MDAs.

Explore the full publication on our website.

ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOW



CENTER FOR FISCAL
TRANSPARENCY AND
PUBLIC INTEGRITY

ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS



www.fiscaltransparency.org



WHAT ARE IFFS

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) refer to money that is illegally earned, transferred, or used across borders through Corruption, Tax Evasion and Money Laundering.



www.fiscaltransparency.org



THE NUMBERS

Nigeria loses \$17-18 Billion every year through illicit Financial Flows



www.fiscaltransparency.org



SOCIETAL IMPACT

Every dollar stolen leads to: Weakened Public Services, Increased Poverty Rate, Lawlessness and Underdevelopment.

IFFs keep millions in Poverty while enriching a few.



www.fiscaltransparency.org



CHANNELS OF ILLICIT OUTFLOW

Illicit Funds flow through

1. Trade Price Falsification
2. Tax Evasion
3. Corruption and Embezzlement
4. Procurement Cost Inflation



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THE WAY FORWARD

1. Strengthen Fiscal Transparency and Anti Corruption Agencies
2. International Collaboration
3. Political Will
4. Citizen Engagement



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ICPC HOSTS MEDIA DIALOGUE IN KANO TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESS ROLE IN PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.



The ICPC (Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission) hosted a One-Day Media Dialogue for journalists from Nigeria's Northwest and Northeast regions.

The event was part of the Accountability and Corruption Prevention Programme for Local Governments (ACPP-LG).

During the dialogue, the Executive Director, Dr. Umar Yakubu, unveiled the ACPP-LG framework. This new program is designed to help local governments become more transparent and accountable by:

- Promoting fiscal transparency
- Strengthening accountability mechanisms
- Improving public access to information
- Encouraging citizen engagement

The dialogue emphasized that local governments are particularly vulnerable to corruption because they are the closest level of government to the people. The ACPP-LG framework aims to equip journalists to act as watchdogs and drive reforms at this crucial level of governance.

NIGERIA'S URGENT CALL FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING: A PATH TO PRUDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

BY UMAR YAKUBU

Electoral process compromised with illicit funds promotes corruption and weakens accountability.

Use of technology including electronic voting will curb excessive spending and enhance the integrity of the electoral system.

For more, read at www.premiumtimesng.com



In a nation where economic prudence is a necessity, our electoral system has often felt like an expensive carnival, draining public resources with little to show for it.



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1



Beyond the numbers, the most compelling argument for electronic voting lies in its potential to transform the political culture and compel leaders to perform.



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2



An electronic voting system, based on biometric data already captured through national identity databases like the BVN, NIMC, and PVC, would significantly reduce these avenues for fraud.



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3



Of course, the transition to electronic voting is not without its challenges. Critics will rightly raise concerns about digital literacy, cybersecurity, and the potential for a "digital divide" to disenfranchise rural communities. These are valid points, but they are not insurmountable.



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4



The push for electronic voting is more than just a call for modernisation; it's a strategic move to save a democracy in peril.

Nigeria's democracy needs a robust, transparent, and cost-effective system to truly reflect the will of the people and hold its leaders accountable.



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CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY (CEFTPI) CALLS FOR URGENT PUBLIC DEBT INTEGRITY MECHANISM

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) today expressed grave concern over the alarming trajectory of Nigeria's public debt. The Center urges the Federal Government and National Assembly to act decisively by establishing a robust Public Debt Integrity Mechanism to prevent a looming fiscal crisis.

The current fiscal path is a perilous reversal of the progress achieved in the mid-2000s. Under the leadership of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria secured a landmark debt relief deal that reduced the nation's external debt from over \$35 billion to a manageable \$2.11 billion by 2007. This historic achievement offered a fresh start for sustainable economic growth and development. Tragically, this opportunity has been squandered. Subsequent administrations have engaged in a relentless borrowing spree, swelling our national debt to an unsustainable N150 trillion. This exponential rise is a clear symptom of a broader issue: the lack of transparency, accountability, and strategic oversight in our public borrowing practices.

The National Assembly, in its role as the primary legislative check on the executive, has consistently failed in its constitutional duty to curb these excesses, effectively rubber-stamping requests without sufficient scrutiny or regard for the nation's long-term financial health.

To address this crisis, CeFTPI calls for the immediate adoption of a Public Debt Integrity Mechanism grounded in global best practices. This mechanism must be built on the following pillars:

Transparency: All current and future borrowing details, including terms, purpose, and repayment schedules, must be made public and easily accessible. We demand that all loans taken since 1999 be publicly disclosed, with a detailed breakdown of their utilization and repayment status.

Accountability: A strong legal framework must be established to hold officials accountable for the prudent and effective use of borrowed funds. We call for an immediate and thorough investigation into the utilization of all past loans to ensure accountability. Furthermore, any violation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act must be sanctioned with the full weight of the law, setting a clear precedent that fiscal misconduct will not be tolerated.

Strategic Planning: New loans should be tied to a clear, verifiable, and medium-to-long-term national development strategy, with a focus on projects with high economic returns.

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity implores the National Assembly to utilize its oversight powers to scrutinize all new loan requests and push for legislative reforms that will enshrine fiscal discipline. We particularly urge the National Assembly to embrace global benchmarking tools, such as the Public Debt Management Assessment Toolkit (PDMAT), to systematically evaluate and strengthen its oversight capacity. This would enable lawmakers to assess key indicators on debt transparency, legal frameworks, and fiscal risk management, thereby fulfilling their role in a broader accountability ecosystem.

CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY (CEFTPI) LAUNCHES TRANSPARENCY AND CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT (TACRA) INITIATIVE

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) is pleased to announce the introduction of its new **Transparency and Corruption Risk Assessment (TACRA) initiative**. The tool marks a significant stride in CeFTPI's mission to strengthen governance, promote public sector accountability, and combat corruption in Nigeria.

Since its inception in 2017, CeFTPI, a non-governmental and non-partisan organization, has developed innovative tools to empower citizens and foster institutional accountability. Building on the success of its Transparency and Integrity Index (TII), the new **TACRA initiative** provides a robust, data-driven framework to systematically identify, assess, and address corruption risks across all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

How TACRA Works

TACRA reviews MDAs sequentially, offering an in-depth analysis of systemic vulnerabilities. The initiative leverages advanced technology and methodologies consistent with global standards, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). It's designed to:

- Map Corruption Hotspots: Pinpoint high-risk areas in budgeting, procurement, and service delivery.

- Promote Preventive Measures: Recommend reforms to strengthen internal controls, whistleblower protection, and institutional responsiveness.

- Empower Citizens and Oversight Bodies: Publish accessible reports that drive advocacy, inform policy reforms, and support judicial interventions. This ensures that the public, as the ultimate stakeholders, can demand accountability.

The inaugural assessment, code-named **TACRA 001**, focuses on the **Niger Delta Development Commission** and highlights critical corruption risks while providing concrete recommendations to enhance its operational accountability. This assessment sets the precedent for future phased reviews of other MDAs.

A Call to Action Against Corruption

In a time when corruption erodes economic growth, weakens trust in institutions, and fuels inequality, **TACRA** is more than just an assessment—it's a call to action. Dr. Umar Yakubu, Executive Director of CeFTPI, stated, "Transparency is the bedrock of integrity, and integrity is the foundation of a secure and prosperous Nigeria. Through **TACRA**, we are not just diagnosing risks; we are providing the evidence and tools to help leaders, civil society, and citizens build resilient institutions that truly serve the people."

This initiative is consistent with key national frameworks, including the Freedom of Information Act (2011), the Public Procurement Act (2007), and the Fiscal Responsibility Act (2007). CeFTPI calls on all MDAs, policymakers, development partners, and the media to join this vital effort to entrench transparency and accountability throughout Nigeria.

AFRICMIL PARTNERS WITH THE CENTER AS IT CONVENES THE FIRST NATIONAL INTERACTIVE FORUM ON WHISTLEBLOWING AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION IN NIGERIA

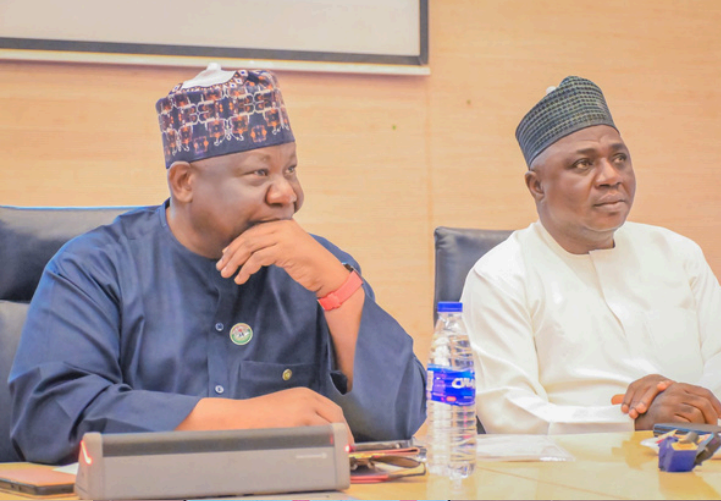


On the 18th September, the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL) in partnership with the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) and other partners, convened the First National Interactive Forum on Whistleblowing and Whistleblower Protection in Abuja, with the theme: "The Judiciary and Whistleblower Protection in Nigeria: Challenges and Responsibilities".

The Forum highlighted the judiciary's role in protecting whistleblowers, stressing the urgent need for a comprehensive protection law, sensitization for prospective whistleblowers, stronger collaboration with agencies, institutional reforms and active engagements with civil society organizations.

SCENES FROM SEPTEMBER





LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE COST EFFECTIVE ELECTION SYSTEM



An Overview of our X Space Discussion on Local Government Governance

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

Our recent X Space discussion brought together the following Guest Speakers: M.A Iliasu - Strategic Communication Officer, CeFTPI, Dr Nasir Baba-Ahmed CHFI, CEH, ACE, MTCNA - Cyber Security Consultant and Igata John - CEO, Quantum Innovative Tech Solutions Ltd to converse on Leveraging Technology to achieve cost effective election systems.

Key Points from the Discussions

1. Automation is Revolutionizing Electoral Integrity

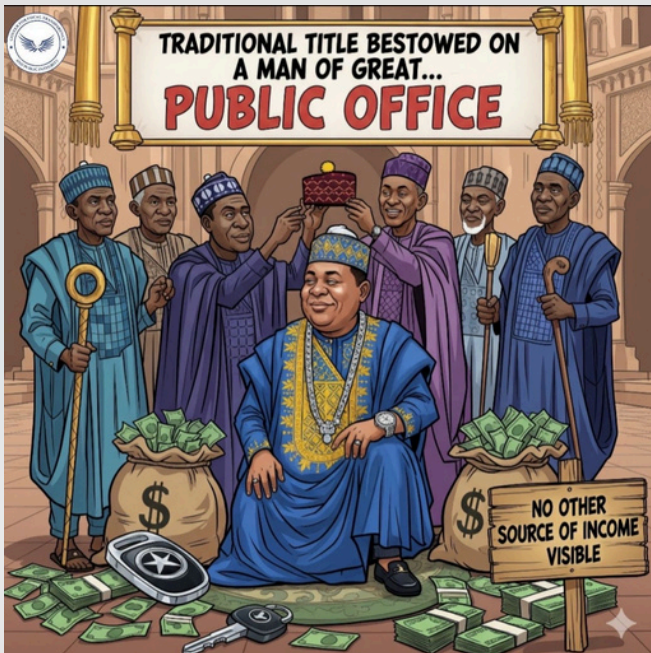
- Automating voter registration and result transmission reduces human error and fraud.
- Countries adopting digital voter databases and biometric verification are seeing smoother electoral roll management.
- Real-time results transmission builds confidence in timely and accurate outcomes.

2. E-Procurement Enhances Transparency & Cuts Corruption

- Digital procurement platforms prevent backdoor deals by ensuring open, competitive bidding.
- Public visibility into election-related contracts strengthens trust in how funds are spent.
- Automation in procurement helps track every cent; from ballots to biometric kits.

3. Online Platforms are Key to Voter Trust & Education

- Government and electoral commission platforms are vital for educating voters about the process.
- Verified social media accounts help combat election misinformation and build public confidence.
- Transparency through digital engagement (e.g., real-time updates, Q&A sessions) encourages voter participation.



It seems that while the windfall of inexplicable wealth might purchase all the trappings of honor: the gilded robes, the grandiose titles, the fawning crowds, it curiously fails to secure that one elusive commodity: genuine respect. One might buy a traditional title, but one cannot buy dignity.



Spending Millions for boreholes, and tens of millions for Legislative SUVs.



The Great Nigerian Debt Pile-Up: An Assembly Line Production



The Minister of Works assures us that for a mere N761 billion, this road will be so exquisitely paved, drivers will need to pay an extra toll just to admire its opulent smoothness, rather than actually drive on it.

Upon completion, the road will likely be declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, not for its historical significance, but for being the most expensive stretch of asphalt known to mankind.

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