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TOP NEWS

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A high-impact training on Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) to the management of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN).

Accountability at the Grassroots: The Center continues the Local Government Accountability Framework (LGAF) Workshop in Plateau and Anambra States.



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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.

A CITIZENS' GUIDE TO NIGERIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY INDEX (NLGII), BY MUHAMMAD AHMAD ILIYASU.

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In July 2024, Nigeria's Supreme Court delivered a historic judgment affirming the financial autonomy of local governments, in places like Port Harcourt, Ohaji/Egbema, and a decision many celebrated as the rebirth of grassroots democracy. For decades, the opacity that define the local governance third tier of government had been trapped landscape.

under the control of state executives, its

resources sequestered, and its democratic essence eroded by caretaker committees. Yet, while the judgment marked a monumental victory, autonomy alone does not guarantee accountability. The crucial question now is how to measure whether our local councils are truly governing with transparency, integrity, and service delivery at their core.

It is in answering this question that the Nigerian Local Government Integrity Index (NLGII) was born. Developed by the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI), the Index represents Nigeria's first-ever comprehensive, evidence-based framework for assessing the risks of governance and corruption across all the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the country. It moves beyond rhetoric and perception to measure, with data, the state of integrity, accountability, and fiscal transparency at the level closest to citizens. For the first time in the country's history, citizens, policymakers, and civil society organization's can see a data-driven picture of how their local governments are performing, and where the cracks in governance truly lie.

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The findings of the inaugural NLGII report are as bold as they are sobering. An overwhelming 85 per cent of LGAs fall within the "Very High" or "Critical" risk categories, marked by opacity, weak enforcement, and abysmal service delivery. Only a handful of LGAs across the federation demonstrate

what true accountability looks like, showing

that reform is possible when there is

political will, citizen oversight, and fiscal

transparency.

The Index is built on eight core pillars that together capture the essence of good governance: fiscal transparency, financial resources, anti-corruption enforcement, post-election governance, civic oversight, service delivery, digital infrastructure, and security environment. Each LGA's performance across these pillars is measured on a standardized scale and aggregated into a composite risk score. The model allows citizens and

policymakers alike to see at a glance where the governance risks lie, how LGAs compare to one another, and what specific weaknesses demand attention. Importantly, the Index uses objective data — not perceptions — combining Freedom of Information requests, existing datasets from national institutions, and independent verification from civil society and media monitoring.

Beyond the numbers, the NLGII exposes a deeper structural crisis. Local governments are the nurseries of democracy, designed to bring governance closer to the people and deliver essential services like primary education, healthcare, and water. Yet, across the country, these institutions have been hollowed out by years of interference, political capture, and systemic neglect. Billions of naira are allocated to LGAs every month, yet in most cases, there

are no published budgets, audit reports, or procurement records. Citizens rarely know how funds are spent, who manages them, or what outcomes they produce. The absence of transparency has turned many LGAs into black boxes of corruption, where accountability is the exception, rather than the norm.

Read more: www.premiumtimes.ng

A HIGH-IMPACT TRAINING ON TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY INDEX (TII) TO THE MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL MORTGAGE BANK OF NIGERIA (FMBN).



The Center delivered a high-impact training on Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) to the management of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) on November 7th 2025.

The session focused on practical strategies to strengthen institutional transparency, enhance disclosure, and build robust accountability frameworks, guided by the five key TII evaluation variables.

The Center is dedicated to empowering public sector institutions to uphold the highest standards of transparency and good governance.

ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE GRASSROOTS: THE CENTER CONVENES THE PLATAEU STATE EDITION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (LGAF) WORKSHOP.



The Center is honoured to oversee the nationwide deployment of the Local Government Accountability Framework (LGAF), a strategic initiative central to our mission of strengthening governance systems at the grassroots level. As local governments transition to receiving direct allocations from the Federation, the LGAF serves as a vital instrument for enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement across all Local Government Authorities in Nigeria.

Through this initiative, the Center seeks to equip local institutions with clear standards, practical tools, and targeted capacity-building support that promote responsible governance and improved service delivery. The framework provides a structured approach for evaluating current practices, identifying gaps, and guiding the implementation of reforms that reinforce financial integrity, administrative efficiency, and inclusive decision-making. By fostering greater openness and public participation, the LGAF aims to deepen trust between citizens and their local governments while ensuring that governance outcomes reflect community priorities.

To date, the Center has successfully deployed the framework in Adamawa, Lagos, Kano, Edo, and Plateau States, engaging a wide array of local officials, civil society actors, and community stakeholders. These deployments have generated valuable insights, strengthened institutional capacity, and demonstrated the critical role of systematic accountability in driving sustainable improvements at the grassroots level.

Our overarching objective is to ensure that the LGAF is fully implemented in all states of the federation. By extending this work nationwide, the Center remains firmly committed to advancing a culture of transparency, enhancing public sector performance, and supporting local governments in fulfilling their mandate to deliver responsive and people-centred governance.

THE CENTER PARTICIPATES IN ICPC 2025 ASSET DISPOSAL BALLOTING EXERCISE



The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) participated in the ICPC 2025 Asset Disposal Balloting Exercise, organized by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) through its Department of Proceeds of Crime. The exercise forms part of the Commission's broader mandate to ensure that assets recovered from corruption are disposed of in a manner that is fair, transparent, and consistent with established legal and administrative guidelines.

As an observer, the Center had the opportunity to monitor the procedures, interact with stakeholders, and assess the level of compliance with due process throughout the exercise. We observed that the balloting was conducted in a transparent, orderly, and professionally coordinated manner, reflecting the Commission's continued commitment to strengthening public confidence in anti-corruption initiatives.

Our participation in this process further highlights the Center's dedication to promoting openness and accountability within public institutions. Ensuring that recovered assets are responsibly managed and redistributed for public benefit is essential to sustaining the integrity of anti-corruption efforts. CeFTPI remains committed to supporting practices that reinforce institutional accountability, enhance public trust, and contribute to the broader objective of ensuring that resources reclaimed from corruption are ultimately utilized in the public interest.

THE CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY WAS HONORED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY HELD ON NOVEMBER 17TH IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



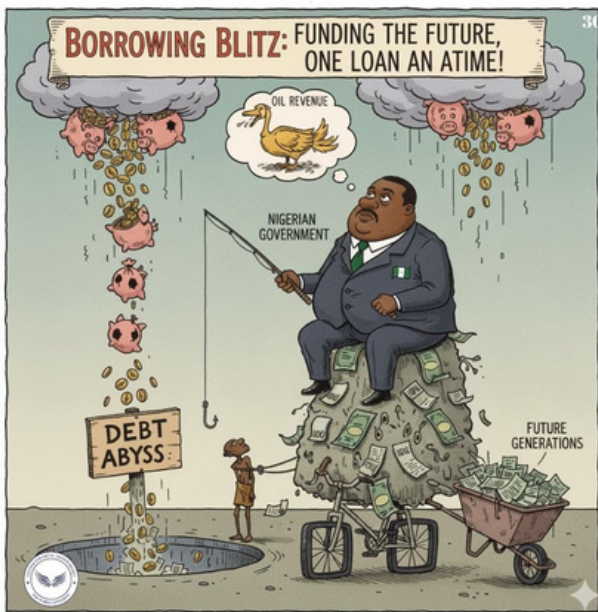
The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity was honored to contribute to the Regional Partnership for Democracy held on November 17th in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Our contributions centered on strengthening institutional accountability by providing our Transparency and Integrity Index, Electoral Financing Portal, and the data driven tools we use to tackle corruption and promote transparency.

Strengthening democracy starts with public sector integrity.







Nigeria's "Borrowing Blitz" is a visionary strategy where the President piles IOUs onto future generations, fishing for loans that vanish into the "Debt Abyss" faster than the country's dwindling oil revenue.

This governance masterclass ensures today's policymakers can breathe easy, as the national debt continues its record-breaking expansion.

TETFund has proudly justified its N30 billion security investment by unveiling a cutting-edge arsenal of high-decibel plastic whistles and "tactical" padlocks for the nation's tertiary institutions.



ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE GRASSROOTS: THE CENTER HOSTED THE 6TH EDITION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (LGAF) CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP IN ANAMBRA.



Anambra State today hosted the 6th edition of the Center's nationwide Local Government Accountability Framework (LGAF) capacity-building workshop, bringing together a broad range of Local Government officials, community representatives, and governance stakeholders to discuss persistent and emerging challenges affecting grassroots administration. The workshop provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences, assess existing accountability mechanisms, and explore practical strategies for strengthening transparent and responsive governance at the community level.

Building on the successes of previous editions held in Adamawa, Lagos, Kano, Edo, and Plateau States, the Anambra workshop underscores the Center's sustained commitment to improving service delivery, deepening civic engagement, and fostering a culture of accountability across Nigeria's local government system. Through these statewide engagements, the Center continues to support local institutions in addressing governance gaps, empowering officials with relevant tools, and promoting inclusive decision-making processes that reflect the needs and priorities of citizens.

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