



MONTHLY TRANSPARENCY WATCH

JANUARY EDITION

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A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY



TOP NEWS

The Executive Director delivers a presentation on the Local Government Accountability Framework (LGAF), at the Independent Corrupt Practices & other related Offences Commission (ICPC) 2026 Management Retreat.

PRESS RELEASE:
CeFTPI raises concerns over N43 Billion Third Mainland Bridge project and N2.5 Billion CCTV Expenditure.



The ED joins volume podcast to discuss the structural weakness in Nigeria's anti-corruption framework and proposes a fundamental reset: reclassifying grand corruption as treason, enforcing political finance regulation, enhancing inter agency coordination, and redefining the role of key institutions in enforcing accountability.



The Center participated in a high-level strategy session with Civil Society Organizations convened by BudgIT to examine Nigeria's fiscal framework, climate finance and related issues.



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.

₦900BN RENEWED HOPE WARD DEVELOPMENT FUND: CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY FLAGS SERIOUS ACCOUNTABILITY RISKS, WARNS OF "GHOST PROJECTS".

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) have raised urgent concerns over the ₦900 billion Renewed Hope Ward Development Programme (RHWDP), warning that the absence of a clear implementation framework poses a significant risk to public integrity.

While ₦900 billion has already been voted and disbursed in tranches between September and November 2025, the Center notes that the program is currently shrouded in opacity. At an average of ₦102.1 million per ward, the scale of this intervention is historic, yet the safeguards to prevent misappropriation are non-existent.

Key Integrity & Accountability Concerns the Center identifies four "Red Flags" that require immediate clarification from the Federal Government:

1. **The Ward Paradox:** Wards are not constitutional tiers of government. Therefore, how will the funds be disbursed? Will they be sent to State Governments, Local Government Areas (LGAs), or directly to contractors?
2. **Implementation Agency:** It remains unclear which MDA (Ministry, Department, or Agency) is responsible for executing these funds. Is it the Ministry of Special Duties, the Ministry of Agriculture, or a newly formed committee?
3. **Project Specificity:** There is currently no publicly available "Project Menu." Without a defined list of eligible projects (e.g., healthcare, water, or education), these funds are highly susceptible to being used for political patronage rather than sustainable development.
4. **The Audit Trail:** With 8,809 distinct locations, the audit burden is immense. Without a digital, geo-tagged monitoring system, the risk of "ghost projects" is extremely high.

Recommendations for Transparency To ensure the ₦900 billion serves the public interest, the Center recommends:

1. **Public Disclosure of Guidelines:** The Federal Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) must immediately publish the operational guidelines for the RHWDP.
2. **Launch of an Open Data Portal:** A dedicated portal should be launched where citizens can track the allocated to their specific ward, including the names of contractors and project status.
3. **Involvement of Civil Society:** Independent monitors should be empowered to verify project execution at the ward level to prevent the diversion of funds.

CEFTPI RAISES CONCERNS OVER N43 BILLION THIRD MAINLAND BRIDGE PROJECT AND N2.5 BILLION CCTV EXPENDITURE.

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) express serious concerns regarding the recently launched N43 billion Third Mainland Bridge rehabilitation and surveillance project. Our analysis, benchmarked against global infrastructure standards, highlights significant transparency issues and suggests potential contract inflation.

about hidden management fees and potential political kickbacks, estimated at 30–40% of the contract value.

Suicide Prevention: The assertion that a ₦2.5 billion CCTV system will effectively prevent suicides warrants careful scrutiny, as cameras function primarily as observational tools and do not provide the physical deterrents shown to help save lives.

Key Issues Identified:

- **Excessive Maintenance Costs:** The allocation of ₦40.6 billion for rehabilitation—equating to approximately ₦3.4 billion per kilometer, far exceeds typical maintenance costs and approaches the expense of constructing new highways in comparable markets.
- **Overpriced Surveillance System:** Even after clarification, the ₦2.5 billion (~\$1.75M) cost for the surveillance suite is nearly four times higher than international benchmarks for similar high-security bridge monitoring systems.
- **Procurement Irregularities:** The reported costs for surveillance equipment and solar power solutions are significantly above global market values. Additionally, the use of complex sub-contracting arrangements raises concerns.

CeFTPI's Recommendations:

- The Ministry of Works should immediately publish the Bill of Engineering Measurement and Evaluation (BEME) to ensure transparency and confirm that there is no double-billing for previously completed repairs.
- The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) should investigate the procurement process, with a focus on potential contract inflation in the technology suite.
- The National Assembly, if not complicit, should suspend further payments on the remaining ₦4 billion balance until a comprehensive forensic audit is completed.




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FISCAL TRANSPARENCY
An Overview aligned with Transparency
and Integrity Index (TII)

Promoting Accountability
in Public Finance



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What Fiscal Transparency Means

Fiscal transparency is the timely, comprehensive and accessible disclosure of information on the collection, allocation, and use of public resources.

Within the TII, fiscal transparency is a core measure of institutional integrity and accountability.



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Revenue and Expenditure Disclosure


Transparent public finance includes disclosure of:

1. Revenue sources, including taxes and external financing
2. Allocation and execution of expenditures
3. Variances between approved and actual spending

Under TII, fiscal information must be traceable and justified.



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Budgeting


Fiscal transparency requires that:

1. Budgets are published in a timely manner
2. Budget information is accessible to the public.

TII assesses whether fiscal plans can be understood and scrutinized.



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Oversight, Reporting, and Fiscal Risks


Fiscal transparency is ensured through:

1. Regular fiscal reporting
2. Independent audits with public findings
3. Disclosure of public debt, liabilities, and potential fiscal risks.

TII evaluates both disclosure and follow-up.



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The TII Standard

Fiscal transparency under the TII means that information is:

1. Timely
2. Comprehensive
3. Understandable
4. Verifiable

These strengthen public trust and fiscal integrity.



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THE CENTER PARTICIPATED IN A HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGY SESSION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS CONVENED BY BUDGIT TO EXAMINE NIGERIA'S FISCAL FRAMEWORK, CLIMATE FINANCE AND RELATED ISSUES.



The Center participated in a high-level strategy session with Civil Society Organizations convened by BudgIT to examine Nigeria's fiscal framework, climate finance, and related governance challenges. The session created space for collective reflection on structural gaps in public finance, the effectiveness of climate-related budgeting, and the alignment of fiscal policies with national development and sustainability goals.

Discussions highlighted the urgent need to strengthen public financial management systems as the bedrock of transparency, accountability, and public trust, particularly in the context of rising fiscal pressures and climate risks. The engagement also helped align civil society priorities to ensure that advocacy toward 2026 is evidence-driven, strategically coordinated, and focused on advancing fiscal responsibility, climate resilience, and inclusive development.



The Executive Director joined the Volume Podcast to discuss the structural weakness in Nigeria's anti-corruption framework and proposes a fundamental reset: reclassifying grand corruption as treason, enforcing political finance regulation, enhancing inter agency coordination, and redefining the role of key institutions in enforcing accountability.


Watch: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yLCq6vBInpl> @volumepod

The Executive Director of the Center joined Business Express on the 23rd of January, 2025, and provided comprehensive insights on Nigeria's Tax Reforms and the critical role of accountability.


Key discussion points include:

1. The importance of Accountability in Tax Reform
2. Mechanisms for ensuring Fiscal Accountability
3. How Nigerians and civil society organizations can actively participate in monitoring tax compliance and enforcement
4. Examining the penalties and accountability measures for officials who misappropriate Tax revenues
5. Ensuring that promised exemptions and benefits reach small businesses

Watch: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yLCq6vBInpl> @NTA



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SWIPE



POLITICAL FINANCE TRANSPARENCY MEANS:



1. Knowing where political money comes from
2. Knowing how it is spent
3. Holding parties and candidates accountable

INEC is the institution responsible for this.

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SWIPE



MONITOR POLITICAL FUNDING




INEC MUST:


1. Monitor sources of party and campaign funds
2. Track donations and contributions
3. Prevent anonymous, foreign, or illicit funding

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SWIPE



REGULATE CAMPAIGN SPENDING



INEC is responsible for:

1. Enforcing campaign spending limits
2. Preventing excessive or unlawful expenditure
3. Promoting fair competition in elections

(Electoral Act | UNCAC 7(3))

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SWIPE



AUDIT, INSPECT AND INVESTIGATE




INEC should:

1. Inspect party financial records
2. Appoint or rely on auditors and submit audited reports/accounts as part of its statutory accountability.
3. Detect suspicious funding patterns


(Electoral Act | FATF standards)

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SWIPE



ENSURE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE



INEC must require:

1. Audited annual party accounts
2. Post-election financial returns
3. Disclosure of income and expenditure

This guarantees openness and public trust.

(Electoral Act | UNCAC 7(3))

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ENFORCE COMPLIANCE




INEC must:

1. Sanction violations of political finance rules
2. Share information with EFCC, ICPC
3. Prevent money laundering through politics


(Electoral Act | FATF | UNCAC)

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SWIPE



TRANSPARENT POLITICAL FINANCE = CREDIBLE ELECTIONS



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Wait, so were we arguing over "Uncertified Fake Copies" this whole time?

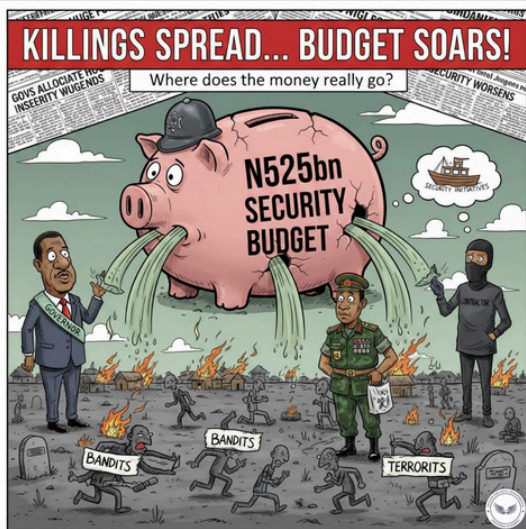


The only theme park where the entrance fee is your future.



Smile! You're on ₦40 Billion camera.



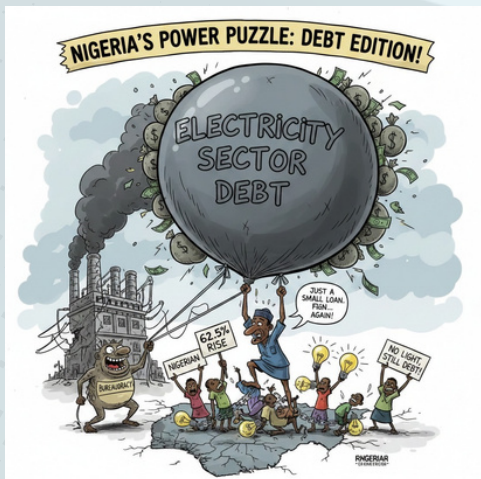


The only thing effectively 'captured' by this budget is the money itself.



65 ways to ensure our leaders never have to feel the state of our roads.

The only thing 'High Voltage' in the power sector right now is the debt profile.



Nigeria Air: Gone with the wind



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DELIVERS A PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (LGAF), AT THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES & OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION (ICPC) 2026 MANAGEMENT RETREAT.



At the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) 2026 Management Retreat held on the 26th & 27th of January, the Executive Director of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) delivered a presentation on the Local Government Accountability Framework (LGAF).

The presentation highlighted the Framework as a practical tool for strengthening transparency, accountability, and governance at the local level. It explained how LGAF's standardized indicators help assess performance, monitor resource use, and identify areas where improvements are needed.

The engaging presentation emphasized that effective implementation of the LGAF across all 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) would enhance oversight, improve governance practices, reduce opportunities for mismanagement, and foster citizen engagement, thereby building public trust in local authorities.

PRESS RELEASE

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CEFTPI RAISES CONCERNS OVER AGF'S WITHDRAWAL OF HIGH-PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES

The Center for Fiscal Transparency and Public Integrity (CeFTPI) expresses serious concern regarding the increasing intervention and withdrawal of major corruption cases by the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Lateef Fagbemi, SAN. While the AGF holds constitutional authority under Section 174 of the 1999 Constitution to discontinue cases, this power must be exercised transparently and in the public interest.

Recent actions have raised questions about the commitment to Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts. Notable withdrawals include the N20 billion fraud case against Ahmed Kuru, the N12.3 billion case involving Oba Otudeko, the review of charges against Mike Ozekhome, SAN, and the N15 billion Petro Union case. These decisions, along with the dismissal of other significant trials, risk undermining the credibility of the justice system.

The AGF's office maintains these actions are not political. However, discontinuing cases involving over N100 billion without clear public justification damages the morale of anti-graft agencies, fosters impunity, and disregards judicial mandates. Therefore, the Center calls on the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) to release a comprehensive White Paper detailing the public interest reasons for recent withdrawals.

The fight against corruption must not be seen to be impartial. Public and international scrutiny demands that justice is both done and seen to be done.

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