



# Integrity Matters

*Name, Nail, Shame and Shun Corrupt Leaders Anywhere, Everywhere*

MONTHLY DIGEST OF COALITION AGAINST CORRUPT LEADERS (CACOL) DECEMBER 2013 VOL. 1 NO 9

The verbal exchanges between President Goodluck Jonathan and former President Olusegun Obasanjo have continued. After 21 days of silence over the weighty allegations raised by the former President in his 18-page, ten-point letter entitled 'Before it is Too Late', accusing President Jonathan of among other things, ineptitude, promoting corruption, pursuing agenda that could destroy the country and training a sniper squad to take out political opponents ahead of the 2015 general elections, President Jonathan has replied Obasanjo's letter. In the reply dated December 23, 2013, President Jonathan similarly raised 10 reasons that necessitated his response, arguing that; "before it is too late, my clarifications on the issues need to be placed on record." In his response President Jonathan accused



## Obasanjo vs Jonathan: LETTERS OF FURRY

Obasanjo of inciting Nigerians against the government; hypocrisy and lying; instigating crises in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP); and working towards propping up his puppet in 2015. He also challenged the former President to produce proof that he (Jonathan) was training hired killers to hound his political opponents ahead of 2015. He also raised the alarm that criminally minded persons may use the former President's allegation as an alibi to perpetrate evil in the country as the general election approaches and then blame it on the alleged killer squad.

The former President had raised several weighty allegations in his letter accusing President Jonathan of insincerity in the fight against corruption, polarising Nigeria along ethnic and religious lines and not living up to the oath he swore to and pursuing selfish, personal and political interests.

President Jonathan in his response denied the allegations levelled against him by Obasanjo. Incidentally, he made a comparative analysis between his administration, the former Obasanjo-led administration and indeed all

previous administrations, civilian and military, arguing that it is necessary to "compare what is happening now to what took place before. This, I believe, will enable Nigerians see things in better perspective because we must know where we are coming from so as to appreciate where we now are and to allow us clearly map out where we are going."

For instance, he argued that the problem of insecurity had existed in the country long before he came to power.

"You raised concerns about the security situation in the country. I assure you that I am fully aware of the responsibility of government for ensuring the security of the lives and property of citizens. My Administration is working assiduously to overcome current national security challenges, the seeds of which were sown under previous administrations. You also

raised the issues of kidnaping, piracy and armed robbery. These are issues all Nigerians, including me are very concerned about. While we will continue to do our utmost best to reduce all forms of criminality to the barest minimum in our country, it is just as well to remind you that the first major case of kidnaping for ransom took place around 2006. And the Boko Haram crisis dates back to 2002. Goodluck Jonathan was not the President of the country then. Also, armed robbery started in this country immediately after the civil war and since then, it has been a problem to all succeeding governments. For a former Head of Government, who should know better, to present these problems as if they were creations of the Jonathan

Administration is most uncharitable," the President wrote in reply. This is even as he said his administration was doing its best to resolve those issues.

However, Obasanjo insists that his letter was written in the larger interest of the survival of Nigeria and its democracy. This is even as he has also said he was ready to prove the allegations. The former President reportedly told leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who visited him recently that he was on a mission to rescue Nigeria from the brink of collapse.

But, as analysts continue to debate both letters, Debo Adeniran, Executive chairman of Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL) says that even as both letters continue to present their positions, that "both ends of an argument can't be right on the same score; it is verifiable evidence that will uphold either."

## **NIGERIA'S POWER PRIVATIZATION: THE JOURNEY SO FAR**

**P**rivatization milestone: WITH the recent reports that successful bidders for the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and its successor companies have already provided all necessary guarantees in payments worth over \$335.85million, the dark cloud hovering over the power privatization process appears to have been lifted. Vice President and Chairman of the National Council on Privatization (NCP), Namadi Sambo recently assured that the fledging privatization of state-owned power companies would be completed on scheduled.

“We are hoping that we will meet the target plan for the privatisation of the power sector in Nigeria successfully,” Sambo had assured while speaking at the opening of the 13th Session of the Baroness Lynda Chalker-led Honorary International Investment Council in London.

Sambo, who allayed fears over the negative impact of the sudden resignation of the former Minister of Power, Prof. Barth Nnaji; and the recent sacking of the Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Ms. Bolanle Onagoruwa, assured that an end to the country's decade-long power crisis is near.

“I can confirm to you as the chairman of the NIPP projects that for the new 10 thermal power plants we are building, three plants are already adding power to the national grid, and each one is over 90 per cent completed. In each and every city of Nigeria, we are constructing sub-stations. So, there is a lot of progress in that direction,” he assured.

President Goodluck Jonathan had earlier at an interactive session on the sidelines of the D-8 Summit in Islamabad, Pakistani capital, assured Nigerians of stable electricity in major cities across the country by the end of second quarters of 2013.

“We have over 1000 megawatts of power that we cannot evacuate due to the weak transmission infrastructure over the years and it was only recently that government started the intervention. But, we have projects that are going on, so before the end of the second quarter, almost middle of next year, most of these projects would have been inaugurated and we will be evacuating power generated. At that time, quite a number of cities will begin to have 24-hour of light”, declared the President.

A recent privatization schedule released by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE),

shows that negotiations with the preferred bidders for the nation's power generation companies and distribution companies would hold between December 2012 and January 2013, culminating in the transfer of the power firms to the private sector in July. “Our intent is to conclude the execution of the legal documents by mid next year (2013). So, around June and July, the bidders will take over. Prior to that, we are trying to put up transitional arrangements in collaboration with the preferred bidders and the managers of the companies so that when we conclude and they make payment in full; thereafter, they will take over seamlessly without any problem,” Mr. Ibrahim Babagana, Acting Director, Electric Power Department of the BPE said.

### **Fault lines:**

With the unbundling and sales of the PHCN successor companies now at advanced stage, analysts are already taking stock of the impact of the privatization exercise on the country's power sector. However, there are growing fears that a number of faults encountered in the process could undermine the success of the entire programme.

First is the contentious belief in many quarters that the bidding process leading to the selection of the preferred bidders for 10 power distribution and five power generation companies was fraught with malpractices. Indications that the issue of credibility could mar the privatization process emerged in October last year when Governors of Delta, Edo and Ekiti states publicly criticized the choice of Vigeo Power Consortium as the preferred bidder for the Benin Electricity Distribution Company.

Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State questioned the rationale for choosing Vigeo as the preferred bidder at the expense of the aforementioned states. “The technical qualification criteria also failed to take into consideration the peculiarities of the various distribution companies, otherwise, why would a company whose current service territory is 500 square kilometers be technically qualified to operate a 57,000 square kilometer service territory in an area like the Niger Delta region without any local knowledge of this troubled area?”, he said.

Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta State added: “Our states have invested heavily in power generation, transmission and distribution across the length and

breadth of our respective states as we recognised the importance of power as the precondition for socio-economic growth and industrialisation of our states”. Their Ekiti State counterpart, Dr Kayode Fayemi said: “we are disappointed with the outcome of the bidding process because it lacked credibility.”

But the BPE dismissed the allegations of manipulation of the bidding process in a statement by its spokesman, Chukwumah Nwokoh. The BPE insists that the process is credible, transparent and process-led. “We religiously followed the process; we did not deviate a bit. They were aware from the outset that a new strategy would be used to announce the would-be winners. And this was what we followed”, Nwokoh declared.

Despite its defence against allegations of malpractice in the emergence of the preferred bidders for the privatized power firms, critics insist the whole process was designed to favour certain people.

“From the outset, it was obvious that certain key individuals are being propped to take over the power sector and so it was not surprising in the end that some credible investors were complaining of being schemed out”, declared Comrade Debo Adeniran, National Chairman, Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL).

According to him, with the power firms on the verge of being transferred to the so-called preferred bidders, Nigerians should not expect much from the new regime. “What is actually taking place is like pouring old wine in a new wineskin; there is nothing spectacular these set of investors are going to do to transform the country's power sector”, he argued.

Apart from the alleged manipulation, experts have equally identified the creation of a Bulk Electricity Trading Company (BETraC), the decision to outsource the management of the national power transmission backbone to Manitoba, and the empowerment of states and local governments to invest in production and distribution without removing constitutional landmines as other challenges in the power privatisation process.

Also causing ripples is the empowerment of states and local government areas to generate and distribute electricity for their exclusive consumption using facilities of existing electricity distribution companies under the “NERC Regulation on Embedded Generation 2012.” Analysts fault the

*Contd. on page 7*



*Anti corruption protesters during the road show.*

## The march against anti-corruption

The International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on December 9, since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on 31 October 2003. The convention negotiated by member States of the United Nations is the first global legally binding international anti-corruption instrument. The convention requires member States to implement several anti-corruption measures which may affect their laws, institutions and practices.

These measures aim at preventing corruption, criminalising certain conducts, strengthening international law enforcement and judicial cooperation, providing effective legal mechanisms for asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange, and mechanisms for implementation of the Convention, including the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CoSP).

To sustain the convention, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also initiated the "Your NO Counts" campaign, a joint international campaign to mark the day and raise awareness about corruption and how to fight it. The campaign began in 2009 focuses on how corruption hinders efforts to achieve the

internationally agreed upon millennium development goals (MDGs); undermines democracy and the rule of law; leads to human rights violations; distorts markets; erodes quality of life and allows organised crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. Nigeria signed the convention on December 9, 2003 and it was ratified on December 14, 2004. In Lagos, the day was marked with a lecture entitled, 'Corruption as an Effective Tool of Rights Denial: A Case of 419 Governance', organised by the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL), which dwelt on how corruption has pervaded the country, even as the group accused the Lagos State Government of indulging in governance by deception. There was also an anti corruption tour around some selected areas in the state where the group alleges that the State Government has reneged on its responsibilities.

In his lecture, Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman of CACOL argued that the rate at which corruption is proliferating in the country is alarming and calls for the concern of every right-thinking individual who should make solemn effort at combating it. "The country is currently buckling under the weight of pervasive corruption and the political propensity for the absurd. Allegations are flying everywhere about the unprecedented level of

government ineptitude in tackling corruption. Many cases of corruption remain unsolved by the present government just like its predecessors. Nigeria has thus become a laughing stock among the comity of nations. Our leaders past and present have been discovered to have embezzled billions of dollars from our common patrimony and diverted opportunities and benefits every Nigerian should enjoy to their friends and cronies," he said.

He describes the present situation whereby the federal lawmakers earn fantastic salaries in the mist of the over 75 percent poverty rate in the country as a dis-service by government to the people.

"Nigeria is a country known to have a preponderance of citizens living below \$1 daily. Conversely, the elected representatives legislated for emoluments of \$1.7million for members of the Senate and \$1.45 million for members of the House of Representatives...Meanwhile the same lawmakers were reluctant to legislate a minimum wage of N18, 000 for career officers who oil the machinery of their operation. Ironically, they cleverly legislated a minimum wage of N32, 084 for workers of the National assembly, maybe as a bribe to cover the tracks of the 'legislooting' and prevent spilling of the devilish beans," he said warning that corruption in the country has reached "unnatural and gargantuan levels and the ineptitude and insensitivity of the Nigerian leadership to the plight of the common man becoming clearer."

Zeroing in to the state level, Adeniran accused the Lagos State Government of indulging in governance by false pretences and deception, even as he said the State Government has a penchant for over-blowing its performances. He argued that the performance of the Governor Babatunde Fashola-led government did not match the revenue accruing to the state on a monthly basis. "The Babatunde Fashola-led Lagos State Government is fake, pretentious and partial. The government might have also been involved in monumental corruption at its peak. "Though the state government is said to have done a lot for the state, CACOL found out that the government has not done as much as it has been portrayed. "The budget of the state is in excess of N20bn monthly without substantial proof of what it has been used for. We have undertaken an assessment of the 57 councils in the state and it has proved that the LASG is over-hyped for doing very little," he argued.

His words, "Lagos State has been running a government of grandstanding imbued by propaganda and bare-faced deception. The government only tells people what projects they have executed instead of showing them. They read budgets to us just like annual rituals but often execute the capital side of such while the recurrent side

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# Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL)

## LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT UPDATE PHOTO SPEAKS



LAGOS ABATTOIR MARKET AFTER THE DEMOLITION



RESCUE OPERATOR AT THE SITE OF A COLLAPSED BUILDING IN OJODU-BERGER, LAGOS



SYMPATHIZERS RESCUING A VICTIM AT THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT AT ALAKA BUS-STOP, FUNSHO WILLIAMS AVENUE IN LAGOS



SECONDARY SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS CONSTRUCT THEIR CHAIR THEMSELVES, LAGOS STATE



MEN OF THE LAGOS STATE FIRE SERVICE PUSHING THEIR FAULTY FIRE WAGON AT THE SCENE OF THE 25-STORY GREAT NIGERIA INSURANCE HOUSE FIRE INCIDENT ON MARTINS STREET, LAGOS ISLAND



SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS LEARNING OUTSIDE CLASSROOM, LAGOS STATE

**LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT UPDATE**

**PHOTO SPEAKS**



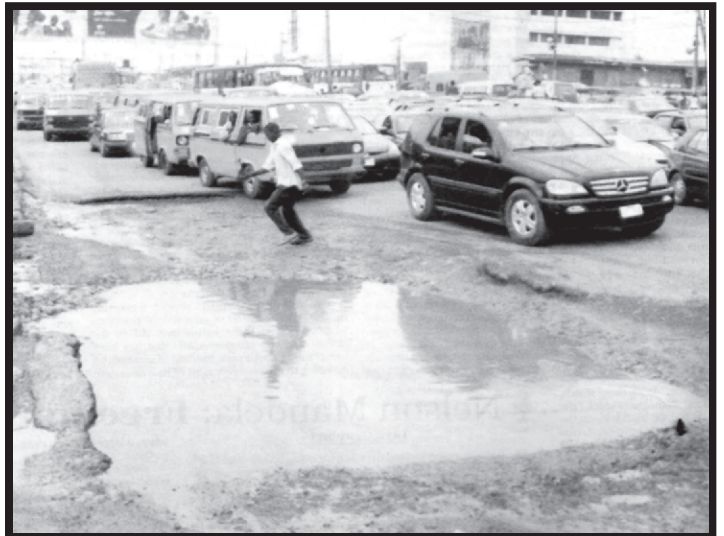
**JANKARA MARKET, IJAIYE OJOKORO LAGOS**



**A VICTIM BEING REMOVED OUT OF THE BUILDING THAT COLLAPSED AT MURI-OKUNOLA, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS**



**A DEMOLISHED BUILDING AT ATINPAROMOE AREA OF BADADRYIN LAGOS**



**A FAILED PORTION AT THE ABULE-EGBA BUS STOP ON THE LAGOS-ABEOKUTA EXPRESSWAY IN LAGOS**



**HEAP OF REFUSE AT THE PALMGROOVE BUS-STOP, IKORODU IN ALGOS**



**LONG WAIT FOR BRT: COMMUTERS QUEUING TO BOARD BRT BUS AT OSHODI IN LAGOS**

## CACOL: An extra ordinary party to mark end of year

It is customary for people around the world especially in Nigeria to mark the end of every year with parties and fanfare. While some go the beach to relax, some go to galleries, cinemas and other recreation centres to unwind and let time pass without having to worry about the bustle and hustle of office work. However, for members of the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL), Grassroots Power Point (GPP) Unit, Idimu, Lagos branch, the end of year party was extraordinary. Extra-ordinary in the sense that rather than being a gathering for winning and dining, the end of year party was more of a lecture on corruption and how it has permeated the fabrics of the Nigerian polity and thus devastated not only the economy but the lives of the citizenry.

Put together by Comrade Samson Olayiwola, the coordinator of the Idimu GPP of CACOL, a coalition of anti corruption crusaders, the get together was used to lecture the peoples of the grass roots on the roles they are expected to play in the fight against corruption and democracy. In his welcome address, comrade Olayiwola said that while corruption has permeated and devastated the economy of the country, resulting in increased hardship for the citizenry, corrupt practices continue to thrive because the peoples of the grassroots have not played the role expected of them. This is even as he observed that the harsh affects of corruption are felt more at the grassroots.

Olayiwola noted that the people at the grassroots constitute the power bloc of every political system, arguing that if they are enlightened on their rights, they could use such rights to make a change in the country.

In his lecture on the topic 'Grassroots Participation in Democracy', Pastor Segun Sogbamu said that the grassroots is used to refer to the common people in the society who incidentally constitute the majority in the society. He noted that these people are the voice of the

nation, adding that if these group of the society actively participate in political activities, they could affect a change in the system. He said grassroots and participation are twin words that must go together if the citizenry are to participate actively in governance.

According to him, while democracy is a system of government in which the people chose their leaders and representatives in government, just as they can equally change such leaders at periodic elections, "if democracy is not structured so as to prohibit the government from exclude the people from legislative process, or any branch of government from altering the separation of powers in its own favour, then a branch of the system can accumulate too much power and destroy the democracy."

He said that while it is agreed that democracy thrives on majority rule, "it is also possible for the minority to be oppressed by the tyranny of the majority in the absence of governmental or constitutional protections of individual or group rights." According to Sogbamu, some of the ways to avoid the tyranny of the majority and oppression of the minority is by ensuring that the periodic "elections are fair substantively and procedurally. Furthermore freedom of political expression, freedom of speech and freedom of the press must be ensured so that the citizenry are adequately informed and able to vote according to their own best interests as they see them."

In his address, the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Comrade Debo Adeniran who equally described the grassroots as the cornerstone of every democratic experiment decried the situation whereby public officials ride on the backs of the grassroots populace to get into office only to abandon them when it comes to delivering the dividends of democracy, describing such as governance by deception.

He also argued that the rate at which corruption is proliferating in the country is alarming and calls for the concern of every right-thinking individual who should make solemn effort at combating it. "The country is currently buckling under the weight of pervasive corruption and the political propensity for the absurd. Allegations are flying everywhere about the unprecedented level of government ineptitude in tackling corruption. Many cases of corruption remain unsolved by the present government just like its predecessors. Nigeria has thus become a laughing stock among the comity of nations. Our leaders past and present have been discovered to have embezzled billions of dollars from our common patrimony and diverted opportunities and benefits every Nigerian should enjoy to their friends and cronies," he said.

He describes the present situation whereby the federal lawmakers earn fantastic salaries in the mist of the over 75 percent poverty rate in the country as a disservice by government to the grassroots. "Nigeria is a country known to have a preponderance of citizens living below \$1 daily. Conversely, the elected representatives legislated for emoluments of \$1.7million for members of the Senate and \$1.45 million for members of the House of Representatives...Meanwhile the same lawmakers were reluctant to legislate a minimum wage of N18, 000 for career officers who oil the machinery of their operation. Ironically, they cleverly legislated a minimum wage of N32, 084 for workers of the National assembly, maybe as a bribe to cover the tracks of the 'legislooting' and prevent spilling of the devilish beans," he said warning that corruption in the country has reached "unnatural and gargantuan levels and the ineptitude and insensitivity of the Nigerian leadership to the plight of the common man becoming clearer."

## Anti-Corruption Day: CACOL tasks FG on anti-graft agencies

As the annual World Anti-Corruption Day was marked yesterday globally, the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, urged President Goodluck Jonathan to step-up fight against corruption through the operation and legal enhancement of the various anti-corruption agencies in the country, saying that motivation would help combat the corruption epidemic ravaging the society.

Speaking during anti-corruption tour organised by CACOL in Lagos yesterday to mark the World Anti-Corruption Day, CACOL executive chairman, Comrade Debo Adeniran, bemoaned the alarming state of corruption in the country, urging anti-graft and security agencies to expedite actions on the allegations of official corruption levelled against many state actors, be it at federal, state and local government level.

"Corruption is the worst form of human rights abuse any one

can think of. Corruption is waging war on the rights of the innocent. Corruption is tyrannical; bringing home poverty, deprivation, want, fear and even death to the innocents.

"With this realisation, CACOL, on this day set aside for the world to address issues of corruption, urges President Goodluck Jonathan to put his feet down to frontally combat the epidemic corruption ravaging the country. Security Agencies as well as anti-corruption agencies should be strengthened with funds, equipment, facilities, protection, moral and technical capacity as well as motivation to carry out their patriotic but highly risky national assignment placed on their shoulders.

"We also urge all the anti-graft agencies to be up and doing in detecting,

investigating and prosecuting corruption cases in the country. We are equally urging the agencies to expedite actions on the allegations of official corruption levelled against many state actors be it at federal, state and local government level. We ask that due diligent investigations be done, reports be made public, and whoever is indicted be prosecuted and punished appropriately, no matter how highly placed, influential or crafty.

"CACOL further sees the need for our collective will and resolve to rid corruption off our society. This can be done in so many ways as directed by our individual circumstances; through information dissemination, refusal to be used for corrupt purposes and of course, openly shun, despite and disgrace corrupt elements in our society", he said.

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## The march against anti-corruption

are over executed.

"Same item of the budget hops up annually in our budgets without our asking question where the funds voted for such in previous budget went. Projects are executed just to last enough for exhibition to the media at commissioning, but most often collapse before they are put to proper use. They tell us perpetual lies on the import of their governance and executed projects and many believe them even when the opposite is staring us in the face many are groaning under the weight of collapse or absence of such issues and projects."

He listed the areas of school development and road construction as some areas where the State Government has been peddling half-truths. Whereas the State Government says it is embarking on massive road rehabilitation, CACOL argues that such has been done discriminately.

According to Adeniran, "It is important to note that the situation of Lagos roads is terrible. Most of the roads are either bumpy or riddled with potholes. But worse affected are areas on the outskirts like Ikorodu, Badagry, Epe axis and some areas on the mainland. The Ayobo-Igondo road has been under perpetual construction for about four years and it is not likely this administration is prepared to finish the project. That is why perennial flood has put the lives and property in jeopardy. The State Government has only been rehabilitating roads in the highbrow areas where their friends and cronies live. That is governance under false pretences.

"the Admiralty Cable Bridge was constructed at N39bn when the expected cost would have been put at N6bn; the Ramp constructed between Ozumba Mbadiwe Road to Falomo bridge even when it is not on water and less than 200 metres, was said to have been constructed at N2.5bn the Ramp was estimated to cost less than N50m, if frugality had been the watchword or the directive principle on state policy.

In the area of school development, CACOL argues that despite the governments widely publicised interventions in the sector, most primary and secondary schools in the state are still without basic infrastructure.

According to the group, the State Government has been deceiving the populace by parading projects funded by the international community as their doing. "they deceive the public that they are implementing projects for which grants has been obtained from the international community especially the Eko projects, only to subject pupils to harrowing experiences within their classrooms and school premises. Most basic facilities, equipments as well as materials required for effective teaching and learning are grossly inadequate or totally lacking. These decrepit schools exist across the state worse hit are rural and riverine areas."

"It is known that huge sums of money are always appropriated for the maintenance and supplies for these schools in every of the state's annual budgets. However it becomes disturbing to discover that the funds did not reflect on what they were meant for. A good number of these schools could only parade decorated structures with grossly inadequate furniture or none at all in many cases, forcing pupils to make do with sitting on the windows and the bare floor during lessons. Many do not have toilets and no portable water despite the \$90 million granted Lagos State Government by the World Bank to execute the Eko project," Adeniran argued.

Asked why CACOL has been focusing on Lagos State, he said that although corrupt practices are not peculiar to the state, that the State is its home base and that "charity begins at home but it does not end there. Corruption in any form or style must be seen and considered as a deprivation of the rights of the people. It is the annihilation of the rights of the innocent to enjoy the deserved good things of, and that sustains life, and it is an offence worse than murder.

"This is because murder puts paid to life, it is a direct crime whose perpetrators are easier to punish, unlike corruption that indirectly renders its victims poor, incapable and abandoned as living dead. Corruption is therefore the worst form of human rights abuse anyone can think of. Corruption is waging war on the rights of the innocent. Corruption is tyrannical, bringing home poverty, deprivation, want, fear and even death to the innocent."

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## NIGERIA'S POWER PRIVATIZATION: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

Embedded Generation regulation on the ground that it fails to remove the legal impediments imposed by Section 14(b), Part II of the Second Schedule (Concurrent Legislative List) of the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 which restricts state's investment to areas not covered by a national grid system within that state. "This new guideline, though received with heart-warming by many stakeholders, would not lead to desired outcome of making states and local governments co-owners in electricity generation and distribution unless there is a constitutional amendment to remove the constitutional landmines", disclosed Ahmed Lawal, a public affairs analyst. According to him, implementing the guideline as it were would breed conflicts and corruption.

Similarly, the decision by the federal government to outsource the management of the entire National Power Transmission backbone to a single monopoly- Manitoba Hydro International is also viewed as another major pitfall in the privatization process. According to Mr Julius Egwuoba, apart from the doubts created by the poor handling of the \$23million deal with the Canadian energy firm for managing the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) over two years, the decision may in the long-run work against the country's interest. "From the look of things, it appears the overall objective of the power reform which is to act as stimulant for massive job creation, widespread private sector growth and knowledge transfer along the transmission corridor is already being eroded through the creation of such government sanctioned monopoly for a private company", he argued.

The Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) also faulted the offer of N197 billion for the acquisition of 60 percent equity in each of the 10 electricity distribution firms, describing the entire exercise as fraudulent. NUEE, General Secretary, Comrade Joe Ajaero insists that Nigerians are frequently ripped off through the sale of public power firms. "How can you have a company that makes N300 billion in a year and you sell it N200 billion forever? The poor will not benefit; no foreign investment coming in or managerial abilities and even the financial muscle is not there. It's just money from banks. If you now sell it for N200 billion and my entitlement is N500 billion, you have to go and borrow money and pay me because the asset is worth N3 trillion and if sold at the appropriate rate, you would have saved N1 trillion in the nation's coffers."

## 2014: LAGOSIANS DEMAND AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION, SECURITY, EMPLOYMENT

In separate interviews with our correspondent, they ask for employment opportunities, affordable accommodation for those in the lower and middle cadres, potable water, transparency in governance, improvement in transportation and education, opening up of rural areas and provision of security measures to stem urban crime wave.

Human rights activist and President, Campaign For Democracy, Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin, says in 2014 she expects to see a housing scheme which will cater for the poor and those in the middle class, as opposed to the present regime of accommodation being provided for only the elite and the super rich.

She also hopes to see a downward review of fees being charged by the institutions of learning belonging to the state, most especially the Lagos State University, Ojo.

She says, "Besides, the state government must address the issue of pupils sitting on concrete blocks and hanging on windows during lessons in some of its primary and secondary schools. Such things should not happen in a state like Lagos."

Okei-Odumakin notes that the banning of commercial motorcyclists, popularly known as *okada*, by the state government on August 2, 2012, and depletion of the Bus Rapid Transit buses, since some of them are already off the road due to mechanical faults, have worsened the plight of many commuters.

At every bus terminus, there are always long queues.

She wants to see in 2014 an integrated transportation system, which effectively runs on the tripod of road, rail and water.

Okei-Odumakin, who expresses fear about the recent urban crime wave, calls for more proactive measures on the part of the government to keep hoodlums out of the state.

"The security agencies must embark on more monitoring and be more proactive to stop the hoodlums from wreaking havoc on the people," she adds.

Also sharing this view, Lagos-based lawyer, Bamidele Aturu, calls for a more responsive and inclusive governance in the New Year.

According to him, there is need for government to make life more meaningful to the poor through creation of more jobs and taking development to every nook and cranny of the state.

He states, "In 2014, the state government must make its policies more inclusive. By this, I mean development should be taken to other parts of the state, and not restricted to Lekki,



Lagos residents from all walks of life have listed areas where they want to see changes in the New Year.

Victoria Island and Ikoyi.

Aturu, who wants improvement in infrastructure in public schools, also advises the state government to tackle the incessant gridlocks across the state, to reduce the hours residents spend on the roads while commuting from one point to the other.

In the same shoes with Okei-Odumakin and Aturu is the Convener, Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, Mr. Debo Adeniran.

Adeniran says there is the need for more attention on the helpless and the poor in the society.

He faults the current arrangement where government officials are banned from talking to journalists on policies. He also wants to see a transparent and accountable government in 2014.

He adds, "Residents should not be over-taxed. All this façade, where they create the impression that a project is being executed and one discovers that it is being done half way must stop. Many roads are still pothole-ridden. Many homes in Lagos don't have tap water. The drainages are narrow and clogged."

Another Lagos resident, Mr. Timothy

Adeosun, though acknowledges there are some projects being done in the areas of road construction and accommodation, notes that people will not eat these roads and houses.

He explains that the state government is lacking in the empowerment of the poor masses in the areas of creation of jobs and provision of food.

He states, "It is of no use constructing roads and building houses when the majority of the people who use them are not empowered. I don't think people will eat these roads and houses. How many residents were able to kill a chicken for Christmas celebration?"

"The state government needs to employ more people and make the state more investment-friendly."

An *Okada* rider, Okon Bassey, has a different request. He wants the state government to review the number of roads commercial motorcyclists are being barred from plying.

They are currently barred from 475 major roads out of the 9,100 in Lagos.

Bassey pleads in *pidgin* English, "*Abeg, make government release some of these 475 roads to us, make we begin carry passengers go there.*"

*Culled from The Punch*

### Fund CACOL

CACOL activities is currently being funded with subscriptions and donations from affiliates, members and patrons.

We hereby appeal for cash and kind donations / sponsorship from public-spirited individuals, organizations, local and international donor agencies and corporate bodies

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The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL) was established in August 2007 to exert pressures on anti-graft agencies to investigate and prosecute known corrupt leaders in Nigeria. CACOL also undertakes to sensitize Nigerians to *Name, Nail, Shame and Shun Corrupt Leaders Anywhere, Everywhere* to serve as deterrent that corruption does not pay. CACOL is primarily funded by affiliate and individual members but also seeks support from public-spirited individuals, corporate bodies and donor agencies. This DIGEST is supported by First Faculty Ventures - an organizational development consultancy firm. For further information contact: The Executive Chairman, CACOL, The Humanity Center, 610 Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, Ijaye-Ojokoro, Lagos, Nigeria. E-mail: [cacole@yahoo.com](mailto:cacole@yahoo.com), [www.cacol.thehumanitycentre.org](http://www.cacol.thehumanitycentre.org). Phone: 01-4736534, 08037194969, 08023226276 Editor: Abimbola Adegoke