



# Integrity Matters

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

MONTHLY DIGEST OF COALITION AGAINST CORRUPT LEADERS (CACOL) JANUARY 2014 VOL. 1 NO 10

## URBAN RENEWAL IS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF LAGOS PREDICAMENT- CACOL BOSS

Comrade Debo Adeniran, a renowned human rights activist and the convener of Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL) bares his mind on the need for urban renewal in the state.

### Excerpts:

What is your take on Lagos as an emerging mega city?

Lagos can be considered as the largest mega slum when compared to mega cities around the world. Most parts of Lagos are actually slums, apart from the case of Makoko and Ijora Badia.

Ajegunle, Oshodi, Ajangbadi, Ikotun Egbe are all glorified slums. Oshodi is not developed, only the motor parks in Oshodi are developed. It is just an intentional act to cover the rotten state of the interior. However Lagos is being governed under false pretences. The State government intentionally decorated only areas that can be seen by visitors to make it look as if the whole state is neat, prosperous and well planned.

But in reality, most neighborhoods in Lagos state do not have the facilities to be considered as a mega city apart from the population. Ordinarily, the concept of a mega city is not about how beautiful a state is, it is about the ability of a government to manage a mega population that inhabit a city comfortably.

Any city that harbours more than 10million people is considered a mega city. A responsible government is not supposed to de-populate a city but are supposed to develop plans and projects that will accommodate the mega population. It is because of the mega city that Lagos state government collected mega grant from the international Organisations like world banks to control floods because it has to be controlled.

The challenge we have in Lagos is that the drainages are too shallow for the amount of flood they are supposed to contain due to lack of planning on the part of the State government. Instead, they tend to de-populate by destroying poor people's homes; like it happened in Makoko and Badia which is an admission that they lack the technical ability of managing the mega city.

What about the resettlement area built for the displaced people ?

It was when we made mega noise about the wickedness of the government, that they started making efforts to do something about it. One thing you should know is that the government causes more calamity for the poor in Lagos State so that

they would be able to take up their lands and build it to suit the rich. It was what they did in Maroko, Tejuosho and Oyingbo markets. They painted a picture of

modern markets; they took charge of the place, built it and leased it at exorbitant prices that the real owners cannot afford.

The government taking over Makoko was because it was on the waterside and the rich had their eyes on it. There is a likelihood of them allocating it to the rich. If the government would do anything for the poor, it will be contrary area of interest.



Debo Adeniran

When they relocated those that originally owned the Tejuosho market, they moved them to Badagry and that is like saying those who have known Tejuosho as the trading point to start afresh in Badagry. Also there were some shop owners who owned 10 shops in Tejuosho before it was destroyed; they were given only one shop in Badagry.

How would they cope with such challenges? So the same thing they do with their land grabbing tendencies. They are not actually relocating those in these slums, they want to frustrate them out of Lagos so, that Lagos will be occupied mostly by the rich. That is unfortunate because it is against the principles of social economic right of the people.

If you look at the management of the mega city, you will observe that the health institutions are suffering. For the whole of Lagos state, they have only one scanning machine, they have only two dialysis centres and they have less than 1,800 doctors to cater for mega population that is over

17million people.

Meanwhile, LUTH alone has 800 doctors and the whole Lagos has 1,000 doctors with fewer consultants. Doctors are not well paid, there are no improvement and motivation to work. A doctor attends to about 800 patients per day. Meanwhile they are not supposed to attend to up to 50 per day. Look at the educational system, it was reported recently that most public schools do not have chairs

and students sit on the bare floor in classrooms which are mostly attended by indigent children. The government is not interested in the children of the poor but are out there to encourage private institutions that are owned by their close associates which is the reason you see many of these public schools with dilapidated structures.

How best can this predicament be curtailed?

The people would have to rise up to the occasion and demand for good governance. They should insist on schools that are well furnished and roads that are well tarred. Most of the roads are either bumpy or riddled with potholes and the few ones they do are done at inflated costs. Let the people demand for transparency, accountability and probity.

People should start asking questions to ensure that public funds are not mismanaged. What Lagos ought to do is to replace the plank bridge that was done in Ikotun - Igando axis with concrete which in return would make transportation easier. Ayobo road has been on perpetual construction, the same thing with Meran road. Ajangbadi road deserves urgent attention. Urban renewal is the only way out of the predicament.

If the people living in these slums should decide that they are no longer satisfied with their condition; they should demand that the government should engage in urban renewal. The slums should be redesigned and reallocated to the original owners. Also, provision of pipe borne water and electricity by the government to the dwellers is important.

If Lagos state government can generate water and electricity for flowers in the state for the sake of keeping Lagos green, they should be able to make electricity available in the neighborhood for potable water. They should provide good education and the roads should be passable. If the dwellers demand accountability from the government things will begin to change for the better.

## CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN AFRICA

Under the glaring sun of a recent Monday, an unusual group of protesters marched on the streets of Kampala, Uganda's capital. All dressed in black "to mourn the loss of Uganda's public money through corruption," as some of them pointedly explained to reporters. "Return our money and resign," read one of the slogans they brandished. Since November 2012, on the first Monday of each month, the Black Monday Movement—a coalition of local NGOs and civil society groups—has taken to the streets to highlight the effects of corruption in Uganda and to press public officials to act.

Coincidentally, a month before the movement's launch, a corruption scandal rocked the country. Media echoed a damning report by Uganda's auditor general accusing public officials—including some in the prime minister's office—of diverting some \$15 million. The money had been intended for development projects in the conflict-affected northern region. "Massive theft" occurred, Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi admitted at a press conference.

Uproar ensued among foreign donors. Ireland, Britain, Norway and Denmark suspended financial aid. Ugandan authorities ordered an investigation and handed administrative dismissals to those allegedly involved. "This government is determined to clamp down on corruption," Prime Minister Mbabazi forcefully declared, adding, "What we are beginning to see is the beginning of a cleanup that will happen. We will look everywhere; we will turn everything upside down until we discover what may be wrong."

For the Black Monday activists, however, this case is only one among

many. They allege that the more than two dozen high-profile incidents of corruption over the past decade have led to the loss of millions of dollars in public money. Rarely have culprits been brought to court, they claim.

Although its popularity remains limited, the movement has emerged as a remarkable feature in the country's public sphere. Through astute tactics and media strategies, it has managed to generate coverage and spur heated debates. The movement follows in the footsteps of a number of civil society groups fighting corruption across Africa: it is a phenomenon that has gathered steam in recent years and led to the emergence of new approaches and tactics.

### Diverse paths

In South Africa since the late 1990s, for example, civil society mobilisation against corruption has often been part of a wider effort involving the government and other institutions. In 1999, the government held the first anti-corruption summit. Two years later, it launched the National Anti-Corruption Forum, which brings together civil society, business and government in the fight against corruption. The forum subsequently

adopted a comprehensive Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy committing the government to combat corruption within the public service. More anti-corruption summits were held in 2005 and 2008 and each time civil society actors have been closely involved.

In its 2006 report on South Africa's efforts on good governance, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)—a self-monitoring mechanism founded in 2003 by African countries—noted that "the development of key partnerships between the government, civil society and the private sector in fighting corruption" is one of the central aspects of the country's effort.

Some groups independent of those partnerships also aggressively campaign against corruption, a problem generally perceived as worsening in South Africa. The country has been falling on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, going from number 43 out of 179 countries in 2007, to number 69 out of 174 countries in 2012. In January 2012, community leaders, trade unionists and civil servants launched Corruption Watch, a civil society organisation that "relies on the public to report corruption, and...uses these reports as an important source of information to fight corruption and hold leaders accountable." The watchdog reports that in its first 11 months of operation, it received 1,227 reports alleging corruption, many of them sent through Facebook or via text messages,

**Contd. on page 3**



SOMALIA, Mogadishu: Delegates listen during opening remarks on the first day of a civil society conference organised by the United Nations Political Office Somalia (UNPOS) in the Somali capital Mogadishu. AU-UN IST PHOTO / STUART PRICE.



*Contd. from page 2*

## **CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN AFRICA**

highlighting the modern character of the campaign.

Allegations of corruption have often swirled around oil exploitation in the Republic of the Congo. Only in the late 1990s however did the fight against corruption start gaining momentum, first through a campaign led by Catholic bishops, then starting in 2003 through a group of NGOs assembled under the national chapter of the Publish What You Pay coalition, a global network of civil society organizations calling for openness and accountability in the extractive sectors. Since then their relentless denunciations have led to significant attempts at transparency by public officials.

Civil society mobilisation against corruption in Africa has also been at the heart of recent waves of protest on the continent. Tunisia's autumn of discontent that led to the ousting of former president Ben Ali in 2011 started as a reaction against the corrupt ways of the ruling elite. These had been exposed through American diplomatic cables made public by Wikileaks, a website that publishes secret information from anonymous sources and whistleblowers.

In 2011 and 2012, anti-corruption campaigners in Senegal contributed to the downfall of former president Abdoulaye Wade, his son and heir apparent, Karim Wade, and a number of formerly powerful members of his government. Many now stand accused of corruption. Senegal's anti-corruption campaign proved a powerful force as popular artists like the rapper Ndongo D of the group Daara-J joined journalists and activists in mobilising the public. Their movement, Y'en a marre ("Enough"), rallied protesters on the streets of Senegal's capital, Dakar, in the last months of Mr. Wade's presidency.

Unsurprisingly, such mobilisations followed the advances in democratisation that have been taking place on the continent since the early 1990s. Before that period, one-party systems and strongman-led regimes dominated, living no room for independent groups to mobilise against corruption. Yet, notes Marianne Camerer, a South African political scientist and anti-corruption activist, "Corruption frequently takes place in societies where there is considerable discretion for public officials, limited accountability and little transparency in governmental operation; in such societies civil society institutions are often weak and underdeveloped."

### External actors

Since the dawn of the era of political openness in Africa, external civil society groups have also contributed to the fight against corruption on the continent. Their support has brought global visibility to national activists, as well as much-needed resources and critical support.

Indeed, Congo's civil society mobilisation against corruption in the oil sector benefited from support from the national chapter of Publish What You Pay. Through its wide reach among policymakers and global media, the coalition helped shield its Congolese partners from harassment, in part by publicizing threats against them. Along with other external groups, it supported a high-profile corruption lawsuit in a French court against three African presidents, including the president of Congo.

Equally active is the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI), founded in 1993 by former World Bank official Peter Eigen and nine partners. Mr. Eigen witnessed the negative impact of corruption during his time in East Africa. TI has since emerged as one of the most visible anti-corruption advocates.

Its Corruption Perception Index – feared in many circles – is widely cited. A number of African countries have ranked low, earning themselves bad reputations. To assist its 94 national chapters, of which 14 are in Africa, TI provides them with tools and training to curb local corruption.

Based in Washington, D.C., Global Integrity, another anti-corruption group, has gained notoriety in the eyes of offenders in recent years. Co-founded by investigative journalist Charles Lewis, his researcher Nathaniel Heller, and South African activist Marianne Camerer, it brings to the fight against corruption a new tool: information sharing in real time through an online platform known as Indaba Fieldwork. Global Integrity relies on a network of contributors, including many across Africa. Recently it announced that in collaboration with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation – active in the field of good governance in Africa – it will soon publish its own index, the Africa Integrity Indicators. The stated objective of this index is to assess key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level in over 50 African countries.

### Persisting challenges

Despite their courageous, sometimes heroic actions, and support from vocal outsiders, civil society groups involved in the fight against corruption in Africa face significant challenges. For many, harassment and threats to their lives are not rare. In their monthly bulletin, Uganda's Black Monday activists chronicle their difficult interactions with the country's police. In Congo, members of the Publish What You Pay campaign have faced what they consider "judicial harassment" by the authorities.

Another more insidious threat to civil society mobilisation against corruption is its inability to maintain momentum in some contexts. In Nigeria, for example, laments Debo Adeniran, executive

*Contd. on back page*

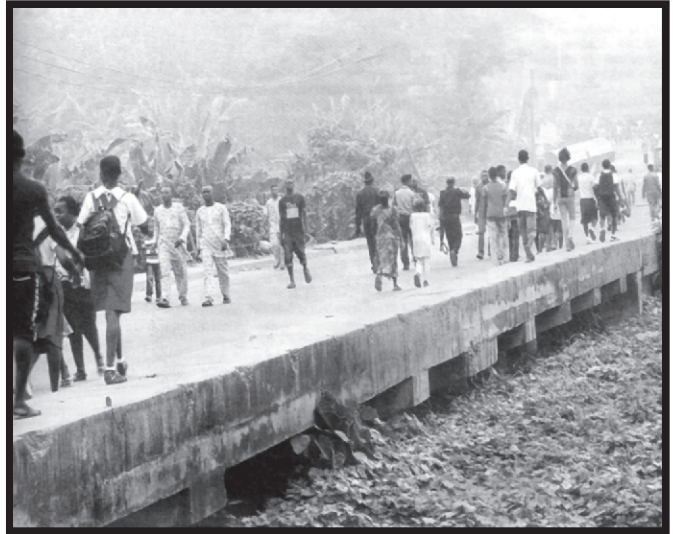
# Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL)

## LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT UPDATE

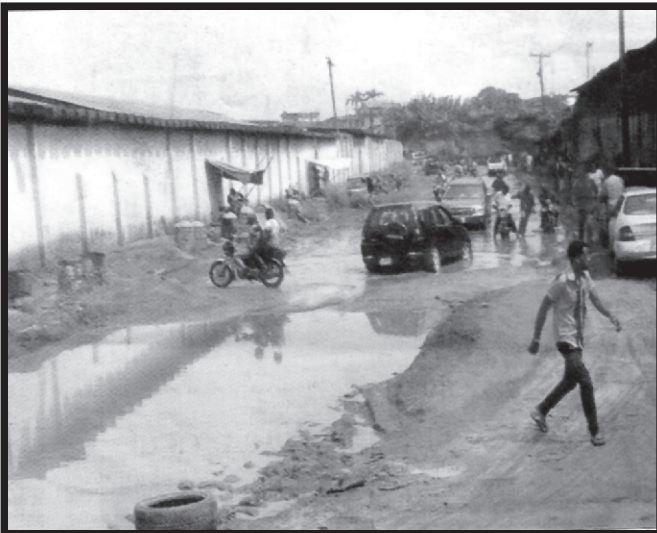
## PHOTO SPEAKS



GRIDLOCK AT OTEDOLA ESTATE BRIDGE ALONG THE LAGOS-IBADAN EXPRESSWAY IN LAGOS



A BRIDGE WITHOUT RAILINGS ALONG AROWOFELA ROAD, IJU, LAGOS



ONE OF THE ROADS THE LEAD INTO THE LADIPO SPARE PARTS MARKET IN MUSHIN, LAGOS



TRADERS AND THE DESTITUTE HAVE CONVERTED A BRIDGE AT MILE 12 AREA TO THE OWN USE.



A SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT AT IGANMU IN LAGOS



A BAD PORTION ON EJIGBO IKOTUN ROAD IN LAGOS



**LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT UPDATE**

**PHOTO SPEAKS**



**THE OTEDOLA CANAL COVERED BY WEED IN LAGOS**



**A SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT OPPOSITE OTEDOLA ESTATE, IKEJA, LAGOS**



**SCAVANGERS AT IKOLA CANAL ON COMMAND IPAJA ROAD IN LAGOS**



**TRADERS AND THE DESTITUTE HAVE CONVERTED A BRIDGE AT MILE 12 AREA TO THE OWN USE.**



**A BAD ROAD AT ORI OKUTA, IKORODU, LAGOS**



**GRIDLOCK AS A RESULT OF FLOODING ON OTEDOLA BRIDGE, AT LAGOS-IBADAN EXPRESSWAY**





President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

## 2014: YEAR OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS

the political crisis, but even the recommendations of the committee headed by Justice Mohammed Uwais, a former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) was not adopted. Some analysts have expressed the views that President Jonathan has written his name in the annals of the country's history by agreeing to convene the national conference which his predecessors had refused. Incidentally, the national conference is one of the first major political events listed for 2014 and is expected to kick off in February barring any last minute change.

Already, the President had said while receiving the report of the Senator Femi Okurounmu-led Presidential Advisory Committee that held sittings in 13 major cities across the country as a prelude to the proposed conference said that he has already directed the Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, to make adequate financial provisions for a smooth take off of the conference.

With some pockets of opposition against the proposed conference especially from the opposition All Progressive Congress (APC) controlled states, who allege that the conference is aimed at fast tracking the President's second term bid, analysts believe that national conference cannot hold without incident.

Despite the apprehensions however, analysts look forward to the conference with great expectations that it would be the panacea to the challenges of nationhood facing the country. Nevertheless, stakeholders still call for caution to ensure that the conference does not trigger political crisis. Bamidele Aturu, a human rights lawyer for example cautioned on the need to avoid political crisis, even as he warns that the conference should not be a political tool towards 2015. He argued that the national conference should not be left to a committee, but should be "proceeds from the action of the people to change the government."

Other stakeholders however argue that there is need for the National Assembly to pass a bill for an Act to convene the conference, arguing that without an Act giving legal backing to the national conference, its outcome cannot be deemed legal. As a matter of fact, Mike Ahamba, a senior advocate of Nigeria (SAN) argues that unless the National Assembly pass the requisite legislation to convene the national conference, its recommendations cannot have the force of law and would therefore amount to a waste of resources and time.

However, even as the citizenry await the conference, many have rejected President Jonathan's position that the recommendations of the conference would be sent to the National Assembly. Debo Adeniran, executive chairman of Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL) for instance described the proposed sending of the recommendations of the national conference to the National Assembly as unacceptably, arguing that doing so would defeat the purpose and essence of the national conference.

The national conference is a major event of 2014 the outcome of which will have far reaching consequence on the political structure of the country.

### Centenary of the amalgamation

Modern-day Nigeria came into being on January 1, 1914, with the formal amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates of the former British colony. Thus, January 1, 2014, officially marked 100 years of the union. The Centenary celebration offers a unique opportunity to focus global attention on the country's history, peoples, achievements, and aspirations.

The celebrations under the Nigerian Centenary Project were designed to highlight the key concepts of unity, indivisibility, virility, progress and the promise of the Nigerian federation.

President Jonathan has meanwhile called for greater national unity in 2014, urging compatriots to build on the work of their predecessors as the country marked the centenary. "For us therefore, today (Wednesday) is not just the beginning of a new year but the end of a century of national existence and the beginning of another. It is a moment for sober reflection and for pride in all that is great about Nigeria," he said in his New Year message. He added "The amalgamation of 1914 was certainly not a mistake but a blessing. As we celebrate 100 years of nationhood, we must resolve to continue to work together as one, united people, to make our country even greater. I assure you that our administration remains fully committed to the progressive development of our country and the consolidation of peace, unity and democratic governance in our fatherland."

The centenary is celebrated under the theme: One Nigeria, Great Promise and the vision is to project a united, vibrant and progressive nation that is ready to be a world leader.

Contd on page 7

*Every New Year comes with great expectation. Regardless of how perfect any year may have been, expectations are that the succeeding year would be better. 2013 undoubtedly had its ups and downs, but Nigerians expect that 2014 would be better. As the citizenry look forward to a more prosperous 2014, there are some key issues that will shape events throughout the year. These include:*

### The National conference of ethnic nationalities

In October of last year during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day broadcast to the nation, President Goodluck Jonathan had promised to convene a national conference where the country's ethnic nationalities would sit and discuss those issues that continually trigger strife in the country in order to proffer solutions to them. In his words, the President had noted that; "When there are issues that constantly stoke tension and bring about friction, it makes perfect sense for the interested parties to come together to discuss. In demonstration of my avowed belief in the positive power of dialogue in charting the way forward, I have decided to set up an advisory committee whose mandate is to establish the modalities for a national dialogue or conference. The committee will also design a framework and come up with recommendations as to the form, structure and mechanism of the process..."

President Jonathan's decision to convene the conference is one of the most remarkable political decisions of any Nigerian leader in recent times. For a long time, various civil society organisations had argued that the ethnic nationalities that comprise Nigeria were not consulted before they were fussed together by the 1914 amalgamation. These groups who equally argue that the problems confronting the country including 30-month long Civil War, can be traced to the fact that the people did not consent to being together also argue that a conference would afford the people the opportunity to right some of the wrongs did by the colonialist.

However, despite the agitations, successive governments have rejected all suggestions to convene a conference, often using cohesion to suppress the agitations. For instance, the military regimes of Generals Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha often employed the instruments of state power to suppress groups like National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), Campaign for Democracy (CD) and others who canvassed such dialogue. Between 1999 and 2007, the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo initially ignored calls by the Pro National conference Organisation (PRONACO) for a confab before setting up the National Political Reform Conference (NPRC), which did not really address the pertinent issues on nationhood. The administration of late President Umaru Yar'Adua favoured the Electoral Reforms Committee approach to resolving

## Tackling corruption in Nigeria

Undoubtedly, corruption is one of the greatest threats to the socio-economic and political development of any nation.

Observers insist that the fight against corruption in Nigeria has remained a major challenge facing successive administrations.

They stress that Nigeria has been rated low in the fight against corruption, citing a report of Transparency International which indicates that the country currently occupies 144<sup>th</sup> position in the global corruption ranking.

The concerned observers concede that although Nigeria has made some efforts to tackle the menace in the past, very little achievement has been recorded.

They also note that delays in the movement of files in offices, extortion by law enforcement or traffic officers, queues at passport offices and filling stations, the ghost workers' syndrome and election irregularities, among others, are some instances of corruption.

They are of the view that the success of the war against corruption in Nigeria largely depends on the input of all Nigerians.

Dr Femi Omotoso of Ekiti State University said that the fight against corruption should not be handled by the Federal Government alone.

He called on local and state governments, private organisations and individuals to make concerted efforts to tackle the menace.

He said that the obsession of **EFCC Chairman**, some public office holders to acquire wealth at the expense of national development would fizzle out if political leaders were honest and upright.

Commending the efforts of the Federal Government to curb official corruption, Omotoso, nonetheless, called for more pragmatic measures aimed at restoring national ethos.

He noted that the poor workers' salary had fostered corruption, adding, however, that there was a convincing need for all Nigerians to shun corruption at all times.

"Living wage or a good pay package for workers will help to reduce the level of corruption in the system; it is better to be paid a high salary than to illegally earn millions through corrupt means," he said.



**EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Lamorde**

Besides, Omotoso underscored the need to build the capacity of the country's anti-graft agencies to prosecute those involved in corrupt practices as a means of fighting corruption.

He also said that more preventive measures should be put in place in ministries, departments and agencies to make it impossible for officials to have easy access to public funds.

Sharing similar sentiments, Mr Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman, Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, said that the Federal Government should redouble its efforts to stamp out corruption.

He urged the government to empower the anti-graft agencies to strengthen their investigation and prosecution of suspects.

"If the anti-graft agencies are empowered, they can engage in diligent investigations by gathering iron-cast evidence and witnesses against the corrupt elements before they are apprehended.

"If prevented, corrupt acts won't be committed but if the crime eventually occurs, anti-graft agencies should be empowered to nip it in the bud before it festers.

"Culprits who are caught in the act, those

*Contd. On back page*

*Contd. from front page 6*

### 2014: YEAR OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS

The mission is to re-inspire a sense of unity in all Nigerians. The aims and objectives include: to celebrate Nigeria's history and unity; celebrate Nigeria's diversity, hopes and the great promise that inspires the people; express the nation's shared values in order to strengthen our national consciousness and patriotism; and preserve its heritage and document the history, achievements and progress. Others are to institute legacy projects that will serve as a lasting reference for the Centenary; promote enterprise development as well as wealth and job creation; promote the empowerment of women the youth and encourage sports and tourism; promote environmental awareness; and, promote our national image and enhance the nation's prestige. The official celebration has however been fixed for the month of February.

Electioneering campaigns

2014 will also witness heightened political activities. Apart from states like Ekiti and Osun where governorship elections will be conducted, there would also be increased political activity on the national level in preparation for the 2015 presidential elections. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has proposed to conduct the 2015 elections between January and February of next year, a development that could see the ban on political campaigns lifted as early as August or September this year.

On this level, there will undoubtedly be massive political mobilisation by the contending political parties particularly the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive Congress (APC). However, even as the political parties mobilise ahead of the elections, it is expected that they play ideological politics in line with President Jonathan's New Year appeal to politicians to turn a new leaf in 2014 and place national interest above personal interests as that is the way to make Nigeria great. The President's appeal could not have come at a better time bearing in mind the country's history of bitter politics laced with violence and clashes. It is expected that 2014 will usher in an era of ideological politics in Nigeria. INEC Chairman Professor Attahiru Jega has a lot to do in this regard especially in the area of bequeathing Nigerians a credible electoral system.

Banking sector

The Nigerian banking sector will be a hive of activities as Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, the Central Bank Governor of Nigeria (CBN) governor is expected to retire. Reports have it that the Presidency has ordered Sanusi whose tenure would have ended in June to proceed on compulsory retirement on or before March 2014 as his tenure as CBN governor will not be renewed. Sanusi who was appointed governor of the apex bank on 3 June 2009 introduced extensive reforms in the banking sector. His tenure in the CBN was built around four pillars of enhancing the quality of banks; establishing financial stability; enabling healthy financial sector evolution; and, ensuring that the financial sector contributes to the real economy.

As he bows out some economy analysts have expressed concerns over how the economy will be managed in the post Sanusi era. They however note that it is a common trend all over the world whenever a new central bank governor is to be appointed as local and foreign investors do not know what kind of monetary policy Sanusi's successor will come up with. One of the national newspapers quotes Mr. Femi Ademola, Head, Research and Intelligence, BGL Plc as saying that the process of appointing a successor for the head of a central bank in advanced countries provided little room for uncertainties unlike the case in Nigeria. "Even in the developed economies, the exit of the head of the central bank causes some uncertainties. However, the process for appointing a successor in those countries always provides transparency and quickly removes most of the uncertainties. In addition, these countries have created a strong institution

*Contd. on back page*



Contd. on from page 3

## CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN AFRICA

chairman of Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, "Our arsenal as civil society organisations is being depleted by the powerful cabal who keep on poaching on our rank and file." In an interview he told Punch, a Nigerian daily, "Many anti-corruption campaigners have switched over and joined the bandwagon of institutional corruption in various tiers of government. Unfortunately, they now see things differently."

The good news remains, however: civil society groups in Africa have become actors in the fight against corruption on the continent, a noticeable contrast from just two decades ago, when they were virtually absent. Yet combating corruption effectively also takes engagement by governments, official watchdogs and justice systems. As Marianne Camerer puts it, in Africa as much as elsewhere, "the involvement of civil society actors is a necessary but not a sufficient condition to reduce corruption."

Contd. from page 7

## Tackling corruption in Nigeria

who confess to stealing public funds or those who are convicted by appropriate courts, should be adequately punished," he said.

Adeniran stressed that if corrupt persons and officials were adequately punished when they were apprehended, their punishment would serve as a deterrent to others.

He, nonetheless, commended efforts of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in the fight against corruption, urging the commission, however, to improve on its service delivery.

"The operational strategies of the EFCC could have been more productive, if the agency has enough specialists that have specialised training for the kind of investigation they are supposed to undertake," headed.

Nevertheless, Prof Seyi Akinseye of Nasarawa State University called for a national action plan to curb corruption in the country.

He noted that the current focus of the country's anti-corruption policies was mainly on prosecution, with little or no regard for crime prevention.

"There is need for a national action plan against corruption; the plan should not focus on prosecution as its main pillar.

"It must also focus on prevention of looting, economic crimes as well as fraud; if this is done successfully, the national anti-corruption policy should then focus on value for money.

"What this means is that the value for money spent by government and the value for money spent by the private sector on the same project

must be equal," he said.

All the same, Dr Mu'azu Yusuf of Bayero University, Kano, said that even though corruption was rampant in Nigeria, the corrupt practices of the country's political office holders were quite irritating.

"These public officials perpetrate corruption via contract awards and inflating contracts' costs with the connivance of contractors," he said.

He stressed that some state governors and local government chairmen had become so engrossed in corruption to such an extent that public funds were now deposited in personal saving accounts.

Yusuf said that the plot of such public officers was aimed at generating personal income from the interests accruing from the government funds.

"All these happen because of personal aggrandisement, sectional interests, absence of clear programmes and legal framework to deal with the problem of corruption as well as the poor wages of some categories of public servants," he noted.

Regardless of the reasons adduced for the rising corruption in the country, analysts underscore the need for all Nigerians to make concerted efforts to tackle the menace.

They also insist that pragmatic plans should be initiated to sensitise the youth to the evils of corruption, as part of designed nation-building strategies aimed at the evolution of a better Nigeria. (NANFeatures)

Contd. from page 7

## 2014: YEAR OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS

in their central banks with clear processes and procedures for every action. However in Nigeria, recent experience has shown that there has always been some kind of disruptions when a new CBN governor is appointed. Even when the intentions are good, the approach by which the policies are implemented usually leads to avoidable disruptions in the financial system, usually to the detriment of investors," he was quoted to have said. According to him, whoever becomes CBN governor might either engage in policy reversals or evolve more demanding regulations. However, for Sanusi his successor must be able to develop the market. "Central banking has changed. I think the market has developed. To be honest, if any Central Bank Governor misbehaves, the market punishes the economy immediately. So, the market is a major factor. Even as a governor, by the time your capital market crashes, and your currency goes down, you will know that it is either you restore stability, or you are out of the job. That's important," he said.

### Security in three N/East States

In May last year, President Jonathan proclaimed emergency rule over three North East States - Adamawa, Borno and Yobe to curb the orgy of violence which the Boko Haram terrorist group had executed in the areas. In November, the period of the emergency rule was extended for another six months in line with the provisions of Section 305(6) (c) of the 1999 Constitution. This second lap of the emergency rule will elapse around April this year. Whether or not the emergency rule will be extended again depends on the security situation by then. Already, Jega has said that if the security challenges in the states persist that elections will not be conducted in the areas.

Although there will be other activities going on, attention of stakeholders will be focused on the above more than any other.

## 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

All monetary donations should be directed to the account of our hub affiliate: CHILDREN Project; Union Bank :  
Acct No: 0009522865; Sort Code:  
0 3 2 1 5 4 2 4 1

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: cacolc@yahoo.com, www.cacol.thehumanitycentre.org. Phone: 01-4736534, 08037194969, 08023226276 Editor: Abimbola Adegoke