

THE SENATE'S DELAY IN CONFIRMING MAGU AS CHAIRMAN OF EFCC IS UNNECESSARY AND SELF-SERVING – CACOL

The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, has said that the Senate has no good reason for delaying Mr. Ibrahim Magu's confirmation as the substantive Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, said, "in his role as Acting Chairman of EFCC, Mr. Ibrahim Magu has been bold in confronting economic and financial crimes regardless of whose ox is gored. The only logical reason the Senate is delaying the confirmation, is perhaps, the reality that many members have one corruption case or the other to contend with, including the Senate President himself. They know that he will not give in to their antics of bribery and corruption."

"Magu has been appointed as acting the Chairman of the EFCC since November 11, 2015, and he has been working ardently to expose much of the sleaze and noxious acts associated with the law makers. All the sharp practices that had been perpetrated in the past by the past administration, Senate and other members are being uncovered on a daily bases, and they assume he is over stepping his boundary. As such, the law makers see Magu as a threat, because there are lots of skeletons in their cupboard." Mr. Adeniran averred.

"Majority of those in the National Assembly are afraid of the EFCC boss, they went there to steal from the system. They have seen what Magu is doing. Left for them, they would have removed him and put someone they can control, who will not question their wrongdoings as the EFCC

Chairman." "We know if the acting Chairman had been open to enticement and ready to 'play ball', he would have been confirmed by now, unfortunately for the corrupt-minded, he is a man of integrity, thus they resort all sorts of flimsy excuses while placing unnecessary obstacles on the path of Magu's confirmation." He added.

"They may not confirm Magu because he is a nonsense man. Whether or not they do it, Magu will not relent in carrying out his duties, in as much as they don't succeed in intimidating him, and they cannot successfully attack him even if they try, they will not be able to concretise their plan. They know that Magu is not someone that will fall for intimidation and he is ready to die for what he believes in. The Senate is just presenting itself as a bunch of people that only wants things that favour them." Mr. Adeniran concluded.



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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. Phone: 01-4736534, 08037194969, 08023226276, E-mail: cacolc@yahoo.com, cacol@thehumanitycentre.org, Website: www.corruptionwatchng.com, www.cacol.thehumanitycentre.org. Editor: Wale Salami



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

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NASS's PROPOSAL FOR 1.4TRN ALLOCATION FOR CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS WILL AGGRAVATE, CONFLAGRATE CORRUPTION – CACOL

Mr. Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman of the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, has lampooned the National Assembly over its proposal that 20% of the 2017 Budget be dedicated to constituency projects. "they are not just greedy, they are insensitive to the parlous state of the country. If that proposal should come to fruition, we should then expect not just the aggravation of corruption; we should expect its conflagration." He averred

The anti-corruption Crusader was reacting to the news that the Senate has made the demand that 20% of the 2017 budget should be allocated for constituency projects. He said "it's like adding salt to injury! What did they do with the 2016 budget? That is the first question to ask. And for crying out loud, 20% represents a whopping sum of 1.4Trn of the projected budget of N7.2tn for 2017."

"How could we afford to prioritize constituency projects which in most cases are just conduit pipes for corruption over more important issues including how to immediately get our country out of this gnashing economic recession? He queried "Our position had always

been that there is no need for legislators to be taking funds for constituency projects because the whole idea and practice is susceptible to sharp practices. Some legislators go to the extent of contracting these projects to themselves directly or indirectly, that is if the projects get implemented at all."

"Our position is that, the practice should be stopped, what is more logical is that the legislators should engage in NEEDS Assessment in their respective constituencies which will help in

identifying and separating the real and felt-needs of their constituents. It is the outcome of these assessment that will inform government's prioritization in its response to people's needs."

Continuing, Adeniran said "It is the outcome of these assessments that the legislature would pass to the Executive with a demand for the real needs of each constituent to be captured in the national budget. The legislature will also get a chance to cross-check whether the demands of their constituent were captured in the budget or not, when the Executive brings the Appropriation bill back to the NASS, and there would be opportunity to amend the

bill." "Fortunately, it is the legislature that overlooks all government projects and can always check the Executive at that level. We therefore emphatically condemn the proposal as we are convinced it would only aggravate and conflagrate corruption. Constituency projects only put the principle of 'separation of powers in jeopardy, the oversight powers of the legislature is adequate enough, the whole practice should be abandoned! He concluded



FAILURE TO CONFIRM EFCC CHAIRMAN SHOWS THE SENATE IS A CHAMBER OF CORRUPTION – CACOL

The failure of the Senate to confirm Mr. Ibrahim Magu as the substantive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC against popular call for his confirmation has been described by the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, as shameless and disgraceful.

The reason for the refusal was said to have been predicated on some sort of 'security report' according to media. But the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, in his reaction to the development condemned the Senate for their failure to confirm Magu, he said, "although we knew it was going to be like making a camel pass through the eye of the needle for the acting Chairman to be made substantive, but at least we gave a benefit of doubt because we felt that, even among thieves, there should be honour. We are totally disappointed that the few men of honour, that is if there is any left in that hallowed chamber to have ensured that the 'voice of reason' prevailed."

"Remember, we alerted Nigerians that a Senate headed by Bukola Saraki will never frown at corruption and will in fact exacerbate it. Senator Bukola, we reiterate should resign immediately to focus on clearing his name if he has any honour or morality left in him considering the gravity of the charges against him which are unfitting for the revered office of the President of the Senate and the occupants. This is the reality behind the Senate's refusal to confirm Magu, we do not need to make pretences about that. Adeniran added

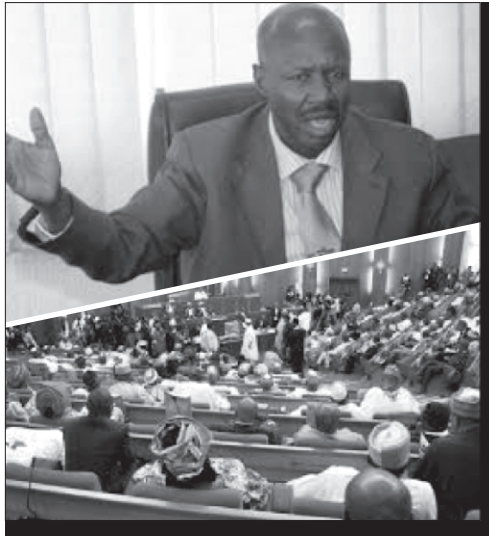
"A Senate President with a background of oscillating between sitting in the criminal

suspects' box in the Code of Conduct Tribunal as a criminal suspect and sitting as President of the Senate in the hallowed Chambers of the National Assembly as the President of the Senate doubling as the Chairman of the National Assembly, the situation becomes an aberration and makes Saraki a misfit to occupy a seat in the Nigerian Senate in the first place and unfit to continue to occupy the exalted position of the Senate Presidency."

"Like we said the last time the Senate refused to screen Magu, it is because of Magu's impressionable role as Acting Chairman of EFCC; his boldness in confronting economic and financial crimes regardless of whose ox is gored that the Senate is delaying the confirmation. The

reality is that many members have one corruption case or the other to contend with, including the Senate President himself. They know that he will not give in to their antics of bribery and corruption."

"We call on right-thinking Nigerians to demand the immediate confirmation of Mr. Magu, as there are obviously no valid reasons not to do so. We must collectively reject what has somehow become a practice by the Senate; the practice of 'holding the whole country to ransom'." Adeniran submitted.



CORRUPTION 'BANTERS' OBASANJO Vs LEGISLATORS: KETTLE CALLING THE POT, BLACK! - CACOL

The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, has said that former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, lacks the moral grounds to label any government, institutions, agencies, individuals as corrupt, considering the unresolved and lingering suspected corrupt acts perpetrated by the retired Army General.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran said "to put it aptly, former President, Olusegun Obasanjo's anti-corruption stance is pure hypocrisy and akin to 'the kettle, calling the pot black'. We can say this even at the risk of sounding 'supportive' of the gluttonous legislators who have frankly admitted as reported in the media to being 'corrupt grandchildren of a corrupt grandfather'; both sides of the divide are indeed culpable in the infestation of corruption in the fabrics of our society. They are two sides of the same coin, actually!"

"We recall how all efforts to get Obasanjo to answer to allegations of corrupt practices over the Halliburton and Siemens Scandal against him were met with consciously and tactically placed obstacles that have shielded the former President from judicial and public scrutiny of his roles in the saga till date."

The media had been awash recently with exchanges of banter dwelling on the 'more corrupt' between the loquacious ex-President and the legislature, with the earlier describing the latter as 'a den of unarmed robbers'. In responding, some legislators have said that Obasanjo is the

'grandfather of corruption' in Nigeria.

In a brief narrative of what CACOL had done in the past on Obasanjo and his suspected corruption cases, Adeniran said "our Coalition submitted a petition against former President, General Olusegun Obasanjo (Rtd) to the EFCC on November 14", 2007 at the Lagos Zonal Office on offences bordering on alleged conspiracy, fraudulent conversion of funds and abuse of office, foreign exchange malpractice and money laundering."

"Following the submission and defense of our petition, an investigative panel was set up to look into the issues raised by our Coalition. Till date, we are still tracking the case and have even written to the EFCC as recently as May, this year for updates, but nothing is forthcoming."

"We found it worrisome; indeed, when we discovered that a report on our petition that the EFCC had not officially released found its way into General Obasanjo's Book titled 'My Watch', in which the former President published a purported report of the investigation panel (page 431 – 465). We had wondered why it was only the former President that appeared to have seen the

report while the other stakeholders and the populace remain in the dark and groping. The experience definitely speaks volumes on why some apparently corrupt elements in our midst remain 'powerful', 'untouchable' and very well 'above the law' in spite of the fact that, constitutional footing/s for such status does not exist!" Adeniran added

"Were it not against this sort of background, Obasanjo and his 'grandchildren' in the legislature ought to bury the heads in shame. A morally upright person would be more comfortable with clearing his name of the corruption allegations against him before pointing fingers. Four fingers are pointing right back at Obasanjo in whichever direction he points a finger to, in the decadence that presently obtains, for being profoundly suspect in the Nigerian situation almost on all plains."

"The ongoing banter is insensitive and insulting to the people's sensibilities. For the umpteenth time we call on the Attorney General of the Federation, the EFCC and other agencies to re-open the Halliburton and Siemens scandal case promptly, a case that has remained unresolved till date." He concluded