

# N450BN UNREMITTED FUNDS; FG MUST RECOVER FUNDS, PUNISH CULPRITS – CACOL

The Federal Government of Nigeria has declared that it is set to prosecute officials of revenue generating agencies indicted in an audit report disclosing that N450bn was not remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund Account.

Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun, revealed that the report of the special audit carried out on 33 revenue generating agencies showed serious infractions in some of the agencies. The Minister, according to media reports, also claimed that N450bn was recoverable from the agencies as unremitted funds for 2010 to 2015 fiscal period.

Stemming from this development, the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, has called for judicial actions to be taken against those found culpable whilst urging that the case should not be taken with levity. The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran stated that it's a manifestation of the state of decadence in the public institutions and agencies, while also calling for the law to run its full-course."

He said, "It is a heart-rending reality that corruption has set its roots in every institution in the country. It is even more worrisome that the virus called 'corruption' has been allowed to fester for too long and now seems to overwhelm the country as a whole."

Some of the agencies are the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria Shippers' Council, Nigerian Export Promotion Council, National Health Insurance Scheme, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority and Nigerian Communication Commission.

Adeniran called on the President to show commitment to the people especially in the fight against corruption, he said, "this development goes further to show how deeply seated the cankerworm has eaten into the fabric of every facet of our body polity. It's so deep seated that no arm of government or institution is extricable from the corrupt practices. The revelation of the 450bn naira

buttresses CACOL's position that civil service is soaked in institutionalized corruption."

"It is public knowledge that corruption is almost institutionalized in the Civil Service to the extent that Civil Servants are euphemistically described as 'Evil Servants', emanating from the experience of most Nigerians or foreigners that have had one thing or the other to do with the Civil servants and the Civil Service. Nigerians have quietly endured this situation for too long. And we know the 33 agencies involved in this case is just 'a tip of the iceberg', if the investigations, probes, prosecution are continued with the necessary vigour, many more 'cans of worms' will be opened."

Adeniran averred that, "It is not enough to announce to the public that N450bn was not remitted to the Federal Government from 2010 to 2015, we expect actions to be taken against those who failed to stick to operational guidelines and convictions against those found to be culpable. The scope of the auditing should be widened in spread; the FG must immediately involve the EFCC, ICPC and other relevant agencies and sustain the ongoing effort with a view of fishing out the culprits to face justice."

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The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (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

# CORRUPTION WATCH

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

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## 100 INEC OFFICIALS CONNECTED TO DIEZANI'S \$115M LOOT: CLEANSE THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, ENSURE DILIGENT PROSECUTION AND CONVICTIONS – CACOL

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has begun the arraignment of electoral officials who received bribes from the \$115m allegedly disbursed by Diezani-Madueke, a former Minister of Petroleum Resources.

According to news reports, the commission is set to charge over 100 electoral officials for purportedly receiving monies under investigation from the former minister during the countdown to the 2015 general elections. The acting Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ibrahim Magu and the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu would be meeting in Abuja to finalize the charges that would be filed against the suspects.

In reacting to the trial, the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL have asserted that electoral crimes serve as precursors for corruption in the governance. The Executive Chairman of the Coalition, Mr. Debo Adeniran commented on the happenings saying, "from these reports, it can be easily deduced that Nigeria's democracy is regularly put up for auction to the highest bidder."

He added that, "any electoral official that perpetrates political corruption, which usually leads to the throwing up corrupt government are culpable in the helping looters to the corridors of power. They easily put up the mandate of the people up for sale. For years, Nigerians have remained victims of bad

leadership which has a strong linkage to failures and corrupt practices perpetrated by electoral officials mostly during elections."

"We commend the EFCC for not leaving any stone unturned in their investigations while also calling for the prosecution of Diezani-Madueke, and every other electoral official that took the bribe. In the same vein, we are urging the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, to begin a review of the electoral commission in order to come up with ingenious protocols to forestall or eradicate any corrupt tendencies in subsequent elections. If we do not cleanse our government and electoral process from corrupt elements then our government would inevitably become a den for thieves."

He concluded stating that, "the anti-graft agency and the electoral commission should continue to publish the names of all officials who received bribes so that Nigerians can continue to identify them as the dishonest lots who sold the peoples' mandate to the highest bidder. We call on the government to cleanse the electoral system to forestall corruption in governance."



Diezani Alison Madueke

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TRY IBORI AFTER RELEASE FROM UK PRISON

The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, has called for fresh trial of former Governor of Delta State, Chief James Ononefe Ibori, by the Federal Government as soon as he returns to Nigeria after serving out his jail term in the United Kingdom. It would be recalled that Ibori was charged with 171-count charges, including that of attempt to bribe the former Chairman of EFCC with \$15million which he was not made to plead to before he was discharged by Justice Marcel Awokhulehin at the Asaba Division of the Federal High Court shortly after he left office as Delta State Governor in 2011. He was later imprisoned for money laundering in the United Kingdom.

Reacting, the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, said, "Convict James Ibori was accused of several sharp practices during his tenure as the Governor of Delta State several of which are yet to be leveled against him. The prison term he served at the United Kingdom that he is about completing was for different offence he committed against the law over there, which is of different jurisdiction to that of Nigeria. His alleged crimes in Nigeria have to do with looting, stealing, misappropriation, misapplication and illegal transfer of money and other state properties to himself and cronies. These are different from the several money laundering charges he faced in the UK.

Our argument is hinged on the fact that if Ibori didn't steal in Nigeria where else could he have secured the humongous amount of money he transferred in foreign currency to the UK by himself, his wife, his concubine, his consultants etc? The mere fact that the Central Bank of Nigeria confirmed that the attempted bribe of \$15million was with it confirms that James Ibori has a case to answer! It is noteworthy that all of the aforementioned close associates were convicted for money laundering on behalf of their

principal. This happened even before Ibori was extradited to the UK from Dubai the United Arab Emirates where he ran to when the long arm of the Nigerian law was catching in on him for fresh



Chief James Ononefe Ibori

charges, even after the former Justice Awokhulehin had discharged (but not acquitted) him for the 171-count charge at the Asaba FHC.

His UK conviction was for the money laundering offences after Ibori voluntarily pleaded guilty to the crimes after reaching the end of his mischievous wits and the UK legal officers confronted him with the implications on them and him of being stubborn on lies! He therefore must be brought back to

Nigeria to face charges on some fresh crimes he has been found to have committed in Nigeria which he is required to be tried for."

"The Nigerian Government has the right to prosecute any suspected corruption criminal, so, Ibori case cannot be exceptional; a lot of allegations have been raised against him that cannot just be over looked just because he was earlier convicted for offending the laws of the United Kingdom. Nigeria Judiciary is quite different from the UK Judiciary, and the allegations are also different. Convict Ibori should therefore be tried for all the corruption crimes that has been laid against him here in Nigeria as soon as he returns from the UK prison." said Mr. Adeniran.

"We also call on the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and every other anti-corruption agencies to do their jobs diligently and provide the evidence, witness and proof to all the charges that are to be leveled against Ibori so that he can serve as deterrent to those who consider themselves 'sacred cows' that are still in the Government who believed that they can get away with the state resources under their watch and nothing will happen to them." Adeniran concluded.

## BILL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL CRIMES COURTS: CACOL LAUDS FG

The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, has lauded the Federal Government for sending a bill for the establishment of special crimes courts to focus on cases of corruption, narcotics, terrorism, human trafficking, kidnapping etc. The bill was previously sent by Prof. Itse Sagay, led Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption, PACAC to the Attorney General of the Federation, Mr. Abubakar Malami for onward transmission to the National Assembly.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, in reacting to the development said, "the country really need special anti-corruption courts to the speed-up judicial processes in corruption cases and other related offences."

"CACOL have consistently advocated for reforms in the judicial system including the creation of Special courts for corruption cases to facilitate the enabling environment for the successful prosecution of the anti-corruption war. Several cogent reasons abound for

the inevitable need for Special courts for corruption cases and some reforms in our laws."

"As a matter of fact, since the kitchen became hotter for corruption criminals based on the ongoing war against corruption, corrupt elements are fighting back using every means available including lapses in our laws to evade justice. The plethora of

corruption cases that the ongoing anti-corruption drive has thrown up calls for reforms in the existing judicial system to ensure that the efforts to rid Nigeria of sharp

hesitate in taking actions that will translate the bill into Act of Law if they are really sincere and on the same page with majority of Nigerians on the need to expunge



corruption from our system holistically." "As corruption fights backs viciously, the logical response is to; lawfully remove all the encumbrances on the path of the anti-corruption drive which corruption criminals cleverly use to wriggle through the labyrinths of the existing judicial system to escape justice.

"We therefore welcome and commend the

practices bears fruits." Mr. Adeniran continued.

"It is a good thing that the AGF have now submitted the bill to NASS for consideration and passage; it is the way forward in the fight against corruption. We call on the NASS to expeditiously pass the bills in the interest of Nigeria and Nigerians. The National Assembly should not

Federal government on its initiatives and the proactive steps being taken to achieve the establishment of Special Courts, just as we call on all the Arms of the Federal Government to work in unison to fight corruption, a scourge that have encroached our country for too long and threatening to obliterate it." Mr. Adeniran concluded.