

DARIYE'S FRAUD CASE: ACCUSATION OF TRIAL JUDGE'S BIAS, AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY JUSTICE- CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, has called on the Federal government, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC and judiciary not allow the 'delay tactics' being deployed by former Governor of Plateau State, Senator Joshua Dariye to scuttle the judicial process on his fraud case being prosecuted by the EFCC, for allegedly diverting N1.162bn from the state's Ecological Fund, to private companies and individuals.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran, reacting to the report that Dariye, currently representing Plateau-Central Senatorial district in the Senate, has accused his trial judge of bias through a letter written to the Chief Judge of the FCT High Court, Abuja, described the move as an 'overplayed tactic' to escape justice!

"Akin to what the Senate President shamelessly resorted to over his case at the Code of Conduct Tribunal, CCT, Senator Joshua Dariye is accusing the trial Judge, Justice Adebukola Banjoko sitting over his fraud case of 'undisguised bias' to achieve the truncation of the criminal trials."

"We know ex-Governor is not new to this game of 'clogging the wheel of justice', he practically maneuvered and toyed with the judicial system for over 9 years before this trial could start trial at all, an act which made the Nigerian Judicial system laughable."

The EFCC, in 2007, preferred money laundering and charges bordering on the diversion of the Ecological funds against Dariye, APC, who recently decamped to the All Progressive Congress. He was reported to have sought an 'application for transfer on ground of manifest and undisguised bias'. Justice Banjoko, on Wednesday adjourned the case to February 15, 2017 for hearing of the applications.

The CACOL Leader said, "we must warn the APC led Federal government that achieving justice in Dariye's case must not be compromised on the altar of political expediencies. We say this based on the droves of corruption criminal suspects that are

decamping to the ruling party, a party that rode to power on the mantra of 'change and fighting corruption to a standstill!'"

"People like Dariye, Saraki, Stella Oduah and co do not deserve to be sitting in that prestigious Chamber based on how soiled their characters are. It is because of dis-honourable persons like Dariye and his co-travelers that almost all that comes out of the Senate are never in tandem with the interest of the vast majority of Nigerians."

"We call on the EFCC to ensure the diligent prosecution of the Dariye case and others to achieve logical conclusions which will see those whose culpability are established facing the full wrath of the law. They must not be allowed to cleverly wriggle through the labyrinths of the laws to pervert the cause of justice."

"President Muhammadu Buhari in particular must ensure that the corruption criminal suspects seeking refuge in his party and residing in it do not escape justice if he intends to keep the credibility of the anti-corruption safe and the boat afloat!"



Senator Joshua Dariye

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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; Acct No: 0009522865; Sort Code: 032154241

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



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

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CACOL REBRANDS!

Dear Compatriot, CACOL REBRANDS! COALITION AGAINST CORRUPT LEADERS METAMORPHOSES INTO CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEADERSHIP, CACOL

Warm greetings to you from the Board of Governors and the entire members of the

Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL. Based on the profundity and value of our relationship with you, we deem it pertinent to keep you abreast of a historical step recently taken by us. Our Coalition, the Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders,

CACOL stemming from new vistas and challenges thrown up in the cause of our struggle against corruption has widened the scope of its work which has necessitated the imperative need for a change in nomenclature. The imperative is predicated on the need for our name to speak out clearly for the activities we engage in.

While maintaining the acronym - CACOL, our organization is hereby formally notifying you of the change in its name from Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders to Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership.

We remain a non-political, non-religious, non-sectarian and non-profit organization. CACOL remains undaunted in the tasks it has set for itself to use every legitimate means to cause relevant authorities to act against corruption and to raise the awareness of masses, the



ordinary Nigerians who are victims of corruption and bad governance. Basically, our activities remain focused on the enlightenment of the society on the virtues of living modest and corruption-free lives in terms of values and public enlightenment at

regular intervals on the need to be good, responsive and responsible leaders.

On education, which we see as the bedrock in societal development and good governance; we are committed to liaising and partnering with relevant government bodies in carrying out best practices on unanswered questions bothering on corruption just as we are dedicated to the enlightenment of the people on the need to see leadership as service to the society.

We look forward to working together with you in future as we collectively strive for a better society. Thank you.

EFCC CHAIRMANSHIP: CACOL WELCOMES THE RESUBMISSION OF IBRAHIM MAGU'S NAME TO THE SENATE FOR SCREENING

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL has welcomed the news filtering in that President Muhammadu Buhari has resubmitted the name of the acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ibrahim Magu to the Senate for screening, saying it is the only logical thing to do under the present circumstance.

A highly placed source at the Presidency was reported to have told Saharareporters today that Mr. Magu's name had been forwarded to the office of the Nigerian Senate President Bukola Saraki.

Mr. Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman of CACOL while welcoming the news said "let

us drop all drop pretences; the main reason Magu was rejected in the first place by the Senate is the reality that he truly qualifies for that job and will really be thorough in his operations regardless of whose ox is gored. And this is what the incurably corrupt elements in the hallowed Chambers and their co-travelers in other public offices do not feel comfortable with and does not want to happen!"

"Let us recall that every person, beginning with Nuhu Ribadu, that have occupied that office, i.e. Executive Chairman of EFCC had been brought down by spurious allegations by extremely corrupt elements to achieve the frustration of the anti-corruption drive in Nigeria till date. The corrupt elements in our midst, particularly those in the public office holders have always been fighting back each time the anti-corruption drive increases in momentum by decapitating the struggle."

"We need to learn from that history and move away from repeated starts. At this rate,

there is probably no Nigerian President Buhari will present that will be approved by the corrupt elements in the Senate; simply because, they prefer that there is no anti-corruption drive at all! They want to sustain the old order of rollicking in ill-gotten gains while the vast majorities languish in penury."



Mr. Ibrahim Magu, EFCC Acting Chairman

"The Senate refused to screen Magu, because of his impressionable role as Acting Chairman of EFCC; his boldness in confronting economic and financial crimes is the reason 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."

"Therefore, we welcome the resubmission of his name to Senate for screening toward his confirmation as substantive Chairman of EFCC. We reiterate that Magu is the man for the job! We call on all right-thinking Nigerians to demand his immediate confirmation, as there are obviously no valid reasons not to do so. In fact it is the logical thing to do. We must collectively reject what has somehow become a practice by the Senate; the practice of 'holding the whole country to ransom'." Adeniran submitted.

ARREST OF SOWORE IS CONDEMNABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE; REMINISCIANT OF THE DARK DAYS OF MILITARY RULE – CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL (formerly Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders) has condemned the arrest of Omoyele Sowore, Publisher of SaharaReporters on Wednesday by the Police. The Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran described the role and attitude of the Police as inappropriate and unacceptable.

Adeniran said, 'This development is reminiscent of the dark days of the Military rule when journalists were hounded, intimidated, tortured, harassed, detained and assassinated on regular basis. It is unfortunate that the Police are still living in that age and time, when arbitrary arrests and detentions were the order of the day. And this is in spite of our country being in a democracy.'

'Let us assume without conceding that Sowore is guilty of the trumped-up charges of defamation, blackmail and threat to life; and if the Police had a petition on the matter, we should ask the Police if previously they had invited the journalist for interrogations? If they did, what was Sowore's response, that is, did he honour the invitation? If he didn't, what did the Police do? Where should it be the petitioner that had to carry-out the arrest on behalf of the Police?'

Adeniran queried The news of the arrest of the Publisher went viral yesterday in the Media when he posted online about an attempt on his life at GRA Ikeja. The attack was repelled by some construction workers, but the Police were said have intervened. From the Area F, Police station in Ikeja, Sowore posted that, "after the police intervened" soon as I was attacked by LekanFatodu and his friends in Lagos we were taken to the CP's office in Lagos. Turns out he was in on this, he pulled out a supposed petition written by Lekan from his hat after that he became very hostile towards me and ordered that we be driven to State CID, at Panti in Lagos. It is very obvious that this was planned between LekanFatodu and the police."

"Reportedly, the so-called petitioner was linked to

laundering money for Femi FaniKayode in the infamous arms deal scandal perpetrated under the last regime when money meant for arms were diverted for political campaigns.

Therefore motive of this occurrence is not far-fetched." Adeniran averred



Omoyele Sowore

He said "there are two obvious evil machinations in this illegal arrest of Sowore; first is the connivance of the Police in the episode and secondly, but more fundamentally, corruption fighting back voraciously. We all

know the impressive role Sahara Reporters have been playing in terms of exposing the corrupt elements in and out of government in Nigeria in particular and Africa generally. Sowore is actually a 'thorn in the flesh' of oppressors and the kleptomaniacs in our country which is why he is now being hounded. Nigerians must realize this; we must be vigilant as we can all see from this incidence that corrupt elements will go to any level including violence just to kill the anti-corruption mode the country is already in."

"We demand an immediate halt to the harassment of Sowore, he must not be detained understand this circumstance or any other one unjustly. He must be allowed to enjoy his freedom of expression, movement and all the other fundamental human rights to the fullest!"