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June 2023 Edition

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another exciting edition of our Monthly Transparency Watch. The month of July marked the 20th year celebration since adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption (AUCPCC), which doubles each as Africa Anti-Corruption Day. It was an opportunity for stakeholders to appraise the fight against corruption and find ways to enhance the implementation of the AUCPCC in line with the year's theme.

Participating at a special event organized by the Inter Agency Task Team (IATT) with support from the MacArthur Foundation, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), it was an opportunity for us to harp on the need for continental action and partnership especially in an era when crimes have taken global dimension, and criminals are now more organized and coordinated.

Again, for us at the Center, this year's event reminds us of the need for stakeholders to shift efforts towards crime and corruption prevention in line with the spirit of our Transparency and Integrity Index (TII) which seeks to promote openness in governance through the principles of proactive disclosure. We will continue to work with stakeholders to the effect that the TII is embraced and mainstreamed as a tool for measuring public sector transparency and accountability.

In this edition, you would also find stories about our joint program with Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA) Resource Center to set anti-corruption agenda for the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration. The sessions transverse topics around administration of criminal justice, transparency, asset recovery, National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), citizens participation, among others.

We hope that you will find this edition resourceful, and join us in the fight against corruption and promotes public sector transparency.

Victor Agi
Public Relations Lead

African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption @20



To mark the 2023 Africa Anti-Corruption Day and the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC), the Center joined stakeholders at an event organized by the Inter Agency Task Team (IATT) with support from the MacArthur Foundation, UNODC and CDD.

The event which was moderated by the Center's Executive Director, Umar Yakubu presented an opportunity for key stakeholders in the nation's anti-corruption environment to report progress and discuss prospects and ways to enhance the implementation of the AUCPCC in line with the year's theme.

Given the debilitating impact of corruption in the continent, stakeholders agree that there is the need for more cooperation, and member states are enjoined to strengthen institutional capacity to enforce anti-

corruption legislations. On national front, participants believe that citizens must own the fight against corruption by assisting with reporting acts of corruption. Consequently, the new government was urged to expedite the passage of the Whistleblower and Witness Protection bills.

After 20 years of the AUCPCC, stakeholders were also urged to demonstrate courage, initiate and sustain international cooperation to align with global best practices, while also looking inward to develop homemade strategies in line with the continent's unique challenges.

The Center looks forward to working with stakeholders on Nigeria's implementation of the principles and pillars of the AUCPCC in such areas as preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, and international cooperation.

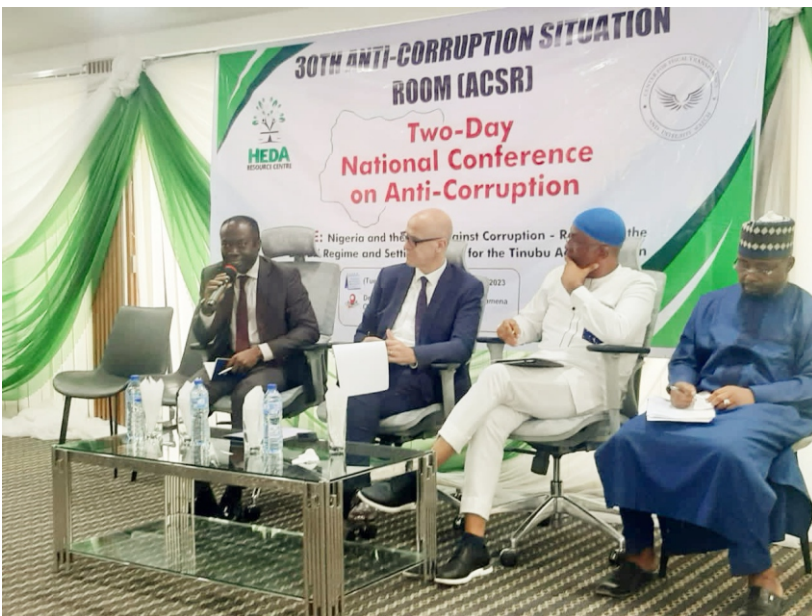


2-Day National Conference on Anti-Corruption Nigeria and the Fight Against Corruption: Reviewing the Buhari Regime and Setting Agenda for the Tinubu Administration



The 2-day national conference on anti-corruption workshop organized by the HEDA Resource Centre in collaboration with the Center was a platform for stakeholders to reflect on the anti-corruption efforts of the past administration and set anti-corruption agenda for the new administration.

Conversation at the workshop cut across ways to strengthen the administration of criminal justice and legal frameworks, transparency and accountability in governance, asset recovery, National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), among others.



Realizing that there is an overconcentration of the fight against corruption at the federal level (which is important), the workshop called on stakeholders to cascade efforts to subnational levels. The masses are equally enjoined to participate and support the fight against corruption as they are at the receiving side of the impact of public sector mismanagement.



In the coming weeks, the Center will be furthering this conversation by focusing on how the nation can make progress in line with the five pillars of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) viz: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange.

Fight Against Corruption: Stakeholders recommend Data-Driven Approach for Impact



Organized to set agenda for the new administration, the dialogue by the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) had stakeholders committing to the fight and urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration to consolidate efforts made by the previous administration.

The stakeholders drawn from anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media underscore the need for the nation's anti-corruption efforts to be data-driven in order for the global community to reckon with the nation's efforts.

Speaking as a panelist at the Program in response to what CSOs in Nigeria can showcase at the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Conference of the States Parties (10th CoSP), the Center's Executive Director, Umar Yakubu emphasized the need to showcase progress made in promoting democracy and accountability in Nigeria; adding that the importance of highlighting the openness of Nigeria's civic space and the government's responsiveness to civil society engagement cannot be overstated.



Some Sights and Scenes from June 2023



African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption @20



CJID's West Africa Journalism Innovation Conference



Public presentation of the National Digital Literacy Framework

Which one to decapitate – subsidy or corruption?

By Umar Yakubu

*"...impunity becomes the very foundation upon which systems of corruption are built. And if impunity is not demolished, all efforts to end corruption are in vain."
— Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Prize laureate.*

In 1949 during a meeting with the American Economic Association, Dr Nourse was a classic “on the one hand—on the other hand” economist. That infuriated the then President Truman, with his failure to present a clear policy for him to adopt. He was tired of listening to consequences of economic decisions that were usually “on the one hand, X is good, but ‘on the other hand, Y will happen.’” He wanted a “one-handed economist!”

But that’s the dynamics of economics. Everything seems simple on paper but complex in application and has multiple effects on diverse sectors. Economic decisions are supposed to be well thought out. In the globalised world, there will never be easy-to-adopt scenarios. Unfortunately, politicians are trained to be politicians. They usually opt for what is easier and not necessarily what is logical within a wider context.

Since 2011, several arguments have been pushed for the removal of energy subsidies. The neo-classical proponents have pushed the narrative so hard that all our problems will vaporise once subsidies are eliminated. The debate about corruption has been pushed to the margins. Government has forgotten that it is its responsibility to combat grand corruption in the oil and gas sector, control the borders and ensure efficiency in governance. Since abdicating these responsibilities, especially in the oil and gas sector, the dominant narrative has been to remove subsidies. So, just like how President Truman was looking for a linear solution and didn’t want to listen to the ‘other hands’, let’s highlight some of them.

“In principle, subsidy is not bad as some have been made to believe. It’s a requisite for economic growth and development. Why ours seems like an enigma is the ‘other hand’ we don’t want to talk about because most are either engaged in it, while others are waiting for their turn to do so. The cancerous hand of corruption! Although it was not in their campaign promise, let us be aware that much may not be achieved until the fingers of that hand are cut off.”

Government will ‘save’ at least two trillion naira from the removal of subsidies on PMS. We should recall that subsidies have already been removed on all other components of the energy sector, such as electricity, diesel and kerosene, and have been saving trillions from there. The immediate effect will be that headline inflation will rise from 22.2% (April 2023). Food inflation was 24.7% this April, whereas it was 18.37% in April 2022. Statista

had projected that this inflation would come down to 15.83% in 2024. With the removal of subsidies on PMS, even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed our growth prospects, and the revised projected inflation rate will be at least 25%.

Based on that singular action, the existing incomes of about 10.1 million Nigerians will remain the same but with reduced purchasing power, as food inflation, which accounts for the bulk within Nigeria’s inflation basket, climbed further to 24.45%, owing to increases in the prices of oil and fats, bread and cereals, potatoes, yam, etc.

Effectively, 10 million Nigerians will join the current 130 million already categorised as multi-dimensionally poor. That’s another 10 million people who cannot afford the basics of life. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) generate most of the employment in the country and this single policy of government will drive most of

them under. For the major industries, there is a limit to which they can pass on rising energy costs to consumers. The purchasing power is simply not there.

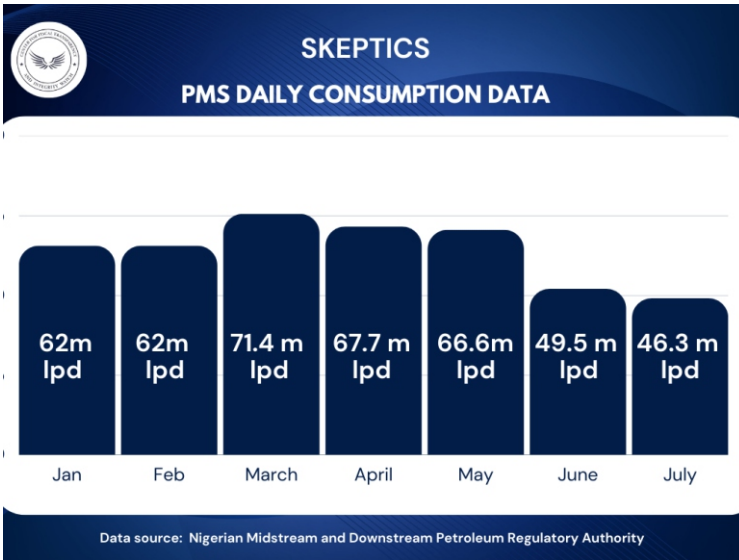
The World Bank thinks an \$800 million loan (less \$33 million, being payment for consultancies) will bring ‘relief’ to 10 million households. They want to rely on the same social registers that other billions have previously filtered away through. Assuming the registers are true reflections of

the information on qualified Nigerians, the relief will come down to about N7,000 per person! We have been down this path a number of times with no meaningful impact.

You can read full article on Premium Times here: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/608526-which-one-to-decapitate-subsidy-or-corruption-by-umar-yakubu.html>

Umar Yakubu is the Executive Director of the Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch



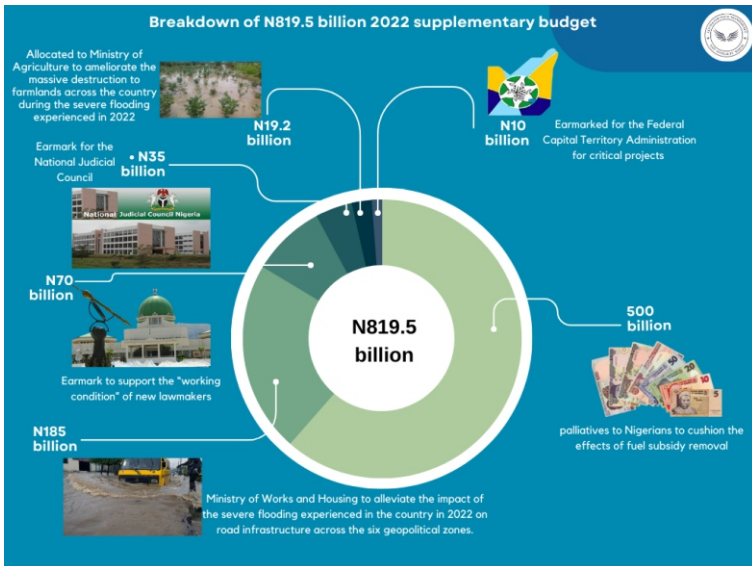


5 INTEGRITY QUESTIONS

STATES DISBURSEMENT OF 8,000 PALLIATIVE

- How many states have comprehensive and inclusive social register?
- Who determines the integrity of states social registers?
- What modalities will be put in place to monitor disbursement by states?
- How do we ensure that palliatives do not become political settlement?
- How do we guarantee that the covid-19 palliatives scenario does not reoccur?

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Disturbing Statistics

#counteringorganizedcrime

According to Lagos State Police Command, a total of **111 cases of defilement** were recorded between **April and June, 2023** in the state. Also, **14 rape cases** and **56 cases of domestic violence** were reported

Data source: Vanguard

CENTER FOR FISCAL TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY WATCH

Join the conversation on Spaces

EU 2023 Election Observation Report

Transparency Issues and Lessons for Future Polls

Thursday, 6th July 2023 @FTransparencyNG 4.00 pm

Kunle Lawal - Executive Director, Electoral College
Obianuju Iloanya - Programs Director, Asplion Foundation
Ozobulu Solumtochukwu - Secretary, Governance Peace & Migration, EU Youth Sounding Board in Nigeria
Arome Agenyi - Researcher & Policy Analyst

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DO YOU KNOW ?

About 660 staff at the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company (KRPC), 506 staff at the Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC), and 437 staff at the Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company (WRPC) earned 136bn in salaries as of 2021 without refining a drop of crude oil



Source: Guardian



PROBES MONITOR PORTAL

The Center's probes monitor portal hosts information on grand corruption-related investigations that were made public from 1999 till date. The project is designed to draw the attention of relevant stakeholders to advocate and promote the conclusion of the avalanche of abandoned legislative, executive and judicial probes, while also serving as a platform for citizens to demand accountability

595

Total number of cases in the Probes Monitor Portal

03

Total number of concluded probes

592

Total number of ongoing/inconclusive probes

351

Probes ongoing for over 1000 days

visit <https://www.fiscaltransparency.org/probesmonitor/current-probes> to access the probes





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