



Human & Environmental Development Agenda

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9th November, 2020

Mr Ahmad Salihijo,
The Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer,
Rural Electrification Agency (REA),
22, Freetown Street,
Wuse 2, Abuja.

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY
NO 22 FREETOWN STREET, WUSE II, ABUJA

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Dear Sir,

Power Projects in 2021 REA Budget: Lopsided Locations, Unverifiable contracts, Corruption, Others – Need for Transparent Review and Equitable Distribution

I write on behalf of Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre), a leading anticorruption organisation in Nigeria, to call your attention to the alleged anomalies observed in the power projects proposed for the 2021 budget of your organisation, Rural Electrification Agency (REA), particularly the various concerns raised by the Senate Committee on Power during your budget defence, on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, some of which are cited above.

We urge you to review the proposal, ensure that the projects are cited and evenly distributed across the geopolitical zones of Nigeria; call out and report to the appropriate authorities including the anti-graft agencies and the relevant senate committee, anyone who is attempting to carry out corrupt practices on the budget at the expense of Nigerians; and ensure a proactive transparent feedback process to the public on the matter.

We are alarmed by the lopsided proposed locations of the projects. For instance, 20 power projects are anticipated for citing in Lau Local Government alone, contrary to the entire South-South geopolitical zone with only one project listed for it. The fact that the Minister of Power who oversees the REA hails from this said Local Government makes it more worrisome as it clearly indicate nepotism, gross abuse of office and outright corruption, all of which contradict the Ministers' Oath of Office, the Federal Character Principle, equity, fairness and natural justice.

We are also startled by the allegation of some of the senators that some of the projects cited in the budget are non-existent; in addition to the fact that some of the projects which are less than 2 kilometres are proposed for completion over a period of five years; and that a certain uniform N52million was allocated to various projects across the geopolitical zone when it is unlikely that all the projects will cost the same amount. It does not require any expertise for anyone to detect that the proposed budget is fundamentally flawed.

Indeed, these are not just indication of corrupt processes and practices alone but also expressions of gross laxity and sloppiness, a common attitudinal disposition of many public officers and civil servants to the public service delivery and civil service.


As the Managing Director (MD) of REA, your presentation and defence of such budget without any reservation then worsens the situation as it clearly suggests complicities in the attempt to alienate Nigerians from other regions on one hand, defraud Nigeria altogether, and also violate the country's constitution. These are in clear contradiction of your Oath of office and it betrays the mandate of REA which is: "To provide access to reliable electric power supply for rural dwellers irrespective of where they live and what they do."

Therefore, we are calling on you to come clean on this matter and use your office as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of REA, to ensure a transparent review of the proposed projects in the budget and come public through our organisation with entire budget proposal review and details of correction in the anomaly observed in the presented budget proposal and ensure equitable distribution of the project and proactively inform Nigerians publicly on the matter.

We shall look forward to your response within 2 weeks of the receipt of this complaint, failure of which will indicate your lack of interest in correcting this illegality and breach of public trust and that will compel us to consider further legitimate actions

We thank you in anticipation of your understanding and necessary action.

Sincerely yours,


Olanrewaju Suraju

Chairman.

CC: Mr Mamman Kwagyang Saleh,
Minister of Power,
Federal Ministry of Power,
POWER HOUSE,
Plot 14, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama Abuja.

CC: President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR,
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Yakubu Gowon Crescent,
Three Arms Zone,
Asokoro, Abuja