



8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Acting Chairman  
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission  
EFCC Headquarters  
Idu  
Abuja

Dear Sir,



Demand for Probe and Investigation – Request by The Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria,  
Godwin Emefiele for Concession on Import Duty for Imported Tomato Concentrate for Sonia  
Foods Ltd

We write concerning the above subject matter.

This petition is based on the report published by Saharareporters<sup>1</sup> on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Sahara Reporters conveyed in the report attached to this petition, allegations that the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele, through a letter dated the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, requested for concessionary import duty of 5 percent and waiver of levies of 35 percent and \$1500/ton on imported tomato concentrate for Sonia Foods Ltd for 2 years. The governor made the request to the Minister appealing for the Minister to advise the Controller General of Customs and Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service accordingly.

According to the report, Sonia Foods is a company owned by one of the governor's relatives, Nnamdi Nnodebe. It was also conveyed in the report that the CBN Governor allegedly pads his pockets through his cronies by sabotaging all policies of the Nigerian Government against food importation. For instance, exclusivity for his friends being sole importers of powdered milk into the country under the guise that they are investing in setting up cattle ranches which is reported to have resulted in the explosive rise of prices of powdered milk by more than 300 per cent.

Another allegation in this report against the governor of CBN is that he gives his business associates exclusive waiver to import thousands of tons of maize to curtail maize shortage without a single ton given to the Nigerian Poultry Association and without the knowledge of the Minister of Agriculture or the approval of the President.

Sometime in 2017, the incumbent president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment banned the importation of tomato paste and powder and increased the tariff on importation of tomato concentrate among others from five to 50 percent in order to revive the tomato sector and wade away importations.

The above allegations run afoul of the law and amounts to circumvention of the law and potential breaking of law and order and should be meted with immediate investigation and proper sanctions. The above allegations contravene the **Code of Conducts for Public officers, Part 1, of the fifth schedule in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered)**, Rule 1 of the Code states that a public officer shall not put himself in a position where his interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities. **Section 9 of the Code** also covers that a public officer shall not do or direct to be done, in abuse of his office, any arbitrary act prejudicial

<sup>1</sup> <http://saharareporters.com/2020/09/17/cbn-governor-emefiele-import-duty-scandal-offers-waiver-family-member-against-president>



to the rights of any other person knowing that such an act is unlawful or contrary to any government policy. The above allegations is in contravention of the code of conduct and the said Governor of the apex bank holds a position that requires a high level of transparency and accountability, however with the above relayed, his accountability and transparency in the office is questionable and should be probed with immediate effect.

It is against this backdrop that we hereby request the Commission to invoke its powers as vested in **Section 6(h) and Section 7(1(a)) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004**. **Section 6(h)** of the Act states one of the functions of the Commission as the examination and investigation of all reported cases of economic and financial crimes to identify individuals, corporate bodies, or groups involved. Also, **Section 7 (1(a))** of the Act states that the Commission has the power to cause investigations to be conducted as to whether any person, corporate body, or organization has committed an offense under this Act or other law relating to economic and financial crimes.

We write for an investigation to be carried out into the above relayed allegation against the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria in relation to the above allegations with aim of uncovering and ridding the nation of corruption, abuse of office, sharp practices and breakdown of law and order.

Our demand is founded on our mandate as a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability, and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, following international standards.

Whilst we anticipate your prompt response and action, do accept our sincere regards

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



**Olanrewaju Suraju**  
Chairman

**CC: The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**  
**Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**  
Aso Villa  
Federal Capital Territory  
Abuja



