11th April, 2018

Chairman

National Assembly Service Commission
Plot 664 T.O.S Benson Crescent
Off Ngozi Okonjo- Iweala way,
Utako District,
Abuja.

Dear Sir,

REQUEST PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT FOR DETAILS OF ALL THE COLLECTIONS OF N13.5M MONTHLY BY EACH LAWMAKER IN THE UPPER CHAMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE BASIS FOR THE COLLECTION.

The above subject matter refers.

The Human and Environmental Development Agenda Resource Center is a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league. It has the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards. These objectives are pursued through research and publications, campaigns, human rights education and empowerment projects and programmes.

HEDA Resource Center wish to express serious concern over the recently revealed illegal allowances paid to members of parliament, especially the Senators. A member of the Senate, Senator Shehu Sanni shocked Nigerians during an interview with a Newspaper with the revelation of parliamentarian’s illegal collection of unconstitutional running cost, above the statutorily approved salaries and allowances, to the tune of N13.5M since the inauguration of this 8th Assembly. This is in the least, criminal, inhuman, cruel and corruption beyond imagination of observers of your government and its anti-corruption agenda. The Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), the body charged with responsibility of fixing remuneration package for political, public and judicial officer in Nigeria says monthly
payment of N13.5M as running cost to senator is unknown to the Commission and therefore illegal.

However, we are compelled to demand that you use your good office to furnish us detailed information of all the collections and the basis, purpose for such collections. We believe that the requested information will aid investigation with a view to promoting accountability, probity, transparency and total commitment in the fight to eradicate corruption in Nigeria.

By virtue of Section 4(a) of the FOI Act, when a person makes a request for information from a public official, institution or agency, the public official, institution or agency to whom the application is directed is under a binding legal obligation to provide the applicant with the information requested for, except as otherwise provided by the Act, within 7 days after the application is received.

We humbly rely on the above provisions of the FOI Act and once again request your office to provide our request within the next 7 days, as failure to grant our request may compel HEDA to move against your office by reliance on the provisions of the FOI Act.

Thanks

Yours Faithfully,

Olanrewaju Suraju
(Chairman)