

8th January 2020

The Director,
Department of Petroleum Resources,
7, Kofo Abayomi Street
Victoria Island
Lagos

Dear Sir,



**REQUEST BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 2011
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE OIL AND GAS COMPANIES FAILING IN
THE REMITTANCE OF RENTS, ROYALTY AND OTHER PREREQUISITE RATES**

The above subject matter refers.

We write this request based on provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, Section 1 states that notwithstanding anything contained in any other Act, law or regulation, the right of any person to access or request information, whether or not contained in any written form, which is in the custody or possession of any public official, agency or institution howsoever described, is established. Section 2 also provides that a public institution shall ensure that its records and keeps its information about all its activities, operations and businesses. And Section 3 provides that an application for access to a record or information shall be made in accordance with Section 1 of the Act.

According to Section 1(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, the Act provides that an applicant need not demonstrate any specific interest in the information being applied for. However, for precision and understanding, we would reference the media report published by Vanguard News on 30th December 2019, titled, "*the Revenue agencies failed to remit N1. 6 trillion into Federation Account – AuGF*"¹

According to the report, the Auditor General of the Federation, Mr. Anthony Ayine, revealed that revenue agencies failed to remit the sum of N1.555 Trillion into the Federation Act in 2017 based on the Auditor General's report in 2017 as published on the office of the Auditor General's website. According to findings in the report, agencies like the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, Department of Petroleum Resources, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigeria Customs Service failed to remit the appropriate revenue generated.

Various Oil and Gas Companies allegedly have outstanding revenues from the 2017 financial year report and that these oil Companies failed to discharge their obligation to pay royalty, rent and other rates prescribed by the Petroleum (Drilling) and Regulation, of 1969 and Petroleum Act 1969.

¹ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/12/revenue-agencies-failed-to-remitt-n1-6-trillion-into-federation-account-%e2%80%95-augf/>

According to the report under reference, there are oil and gas companies contributing to the backwardness of our nation, who are reaping from the nation's resource without remuneration. At HEDA Resource Centre, this request falls in line with 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, in accordance with international standards. And in our bid to strengthening the course of accountability and transparency, we strongly believe this information will aid the investigation being carried out by our organization.

Based on the above relayed, kindly supply the following information;

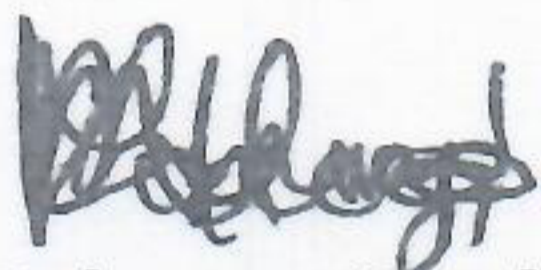
1. List of the oil and gas companies who have failed to pay rent, royalties and other compulsory rates from 2017 to December, 2019
2. List of oil and gas companies who have outstanding payments of rent, royalty and other compulsory rates from 2017 to December 2019.
3. The total amount owed by these oil and gas companies by December, 2019.

Section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act provides that any applicant who has been denied access to information or a part thereof, may apply to the court for a review of the matter within 30 days after which the public institution denies or is deemed to have denied the application, or within such further time as the court may either before or after the expiration of the 30 days fix or allow.

We look forward to your utmost cooperation and the prompt response to this requested information and in any event, within seven (7) days of the receipt of this application in as provided for under the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Rebecca David (Miss)
Legal Officer

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

