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9th July, 2018

Managing Director,

Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria Headquarters,

Ikeja

Lagos.

**LETTER DEMANDING FOR AN EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NEWLY IMPOSED PAYMENT.**

The above subject 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 expresses its surprise at the report from saharareporters on June 25, 2018. It was reported that there was chaos at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) Lagos on Monday as the alleged new immigration policy of \$90 was being enforced to the surprise of many unsuspecting foreigners arriving the country. The report has it that the new policy imposes an additional \$90 on foreigner arriving the country as Biometric visa-on arrival charge, apart from the visa fees paid and visa obtained in their respective countries before embarking on the journey to Nigeria. Foreigners were also compelled to pay additional \$20 as service charge to the Federal Government through the concessionaire charged with implementing the new policy.

It was further reported that at the airport, many travellers who were unaware of the new policy were stranded and were not allowed to pass through the immigration counters until they had paid the \$90. Some of them later used their credit cards for the payment of the two sums, while others had to pay the money through their agents or companies in Nigeria. For instance, South Africans paid the sum of \$58 as visa fee for Nigeria in their country, but were still compelled to pay the sum of \$90 as biometrics and additional \$20 for processing on arrival at Lagos Airport.

It was also reported that the new policy of \$90 of biometric did not exempt the countries that Nigeria already has gratis with, as their citizens were equally compelled to pay the sum. These are countries where citizens don't pay for visa before visiting Nigeria because of the reciprocity agreement between the two countries. Some of the countries with gratis with Nigeria include Mauritius, Barbados, Dominica, Fiji Island and Haiti.

According to the report, "an immigration source told our correspondent that the collection of the sum of visa-on-arrival was taken away from immigration and handed over to a private firm about a year ago in

the name of Ease-of-Doing-Business policy of the Federal Government, which came on stream last June. As it is now, immigration officials at all entry points are just observers in the entire process while the concessionaires collect the sum and put it into a dedicated account".

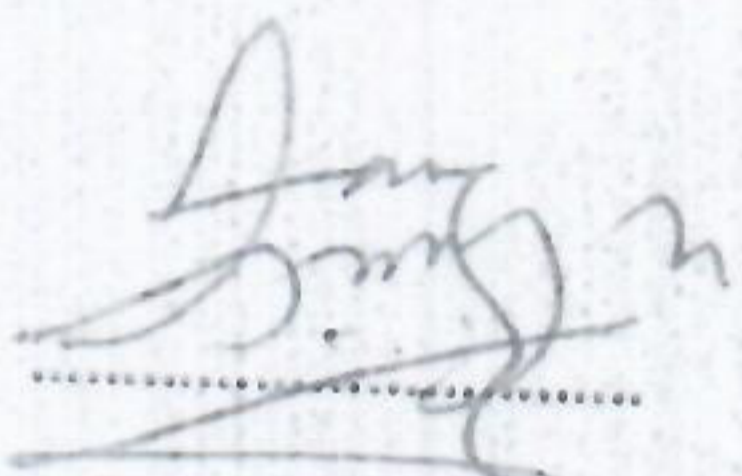
HEDA Resource Centre is wondering, what could be the reason for the imposed additional payment on travelers who have secured visa through the country's embassy in their countries? We Eshiet to know the company responsible for this collection and the process for selection of the company in question? All revenue generation on behalf of the federation is expected to go into federation account according to the constitution and in compliance with the 'Single Treasury Account' Policy of government, we therefore seek to know the dedicated account to which this generated revenue is deposited?

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 Resource Center to move against your office by reliance on the provisions of the FOI Act.

Thanks for your anticipated action and response.

Yours Faithfully,



Olanrewaju Suraju

Chairman

