Human & Environmental Development Agenda
RC:16,485

23rd January 2020
The Comptroller General of Customs
Nigeria Customs Service Headquarters
Abidjan Street
Wuse, Zone 3
Abuja

Dear Sir,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 2011

The above subject matter refers.

We write this request based on provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011. Section 1 of the Act 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. The Act also provides in Section 1(2) that an applicant need not demonstrate any specific interest in the information being applied for. 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.

Our request is borne out of the report of the 18th of January, 2020 published by News Diplomat News. Based on the report it was alleged that the Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Customs, Senator Francis Fadahunsi, tainted the recruitment process as fraud embedded to the tune of N1.6 billion Naira. It was stated in the report that the Senator emphatically stressed the capacity of the Nigeria Customs stating that the Nigeria Customs Service has training schools spread across the country in Ikeja, Kano which are headed by high ranking officers. According to the report, the Senator stated that outsourcing the recruitment of 3,200 officers was borne out of greed, despite the availability of requisite facilities in the agency to carry out the exercise.

Also in the report of the 14th of January 2020 published by the Nigerian Voice titled, "CONTROVERSY: Hameed Alli spent N1.6bn to recruit 3,200 people into Customs Service - Senator Ade Fadahunsi, Renovated Customs Headquarters For About N30 Billion": the recruitment allegation was also relayed alongside allegation of inflation of the cost for the renovation of the Customs headquarters. According to the report, the Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Customs, Senator Francis Fadahunsi stated as follows:

"Customs headquarters was awarded for N2.7 billion, but today the project is going to about N30 billion. The project has not been completed but the furniture contract for the uncompleted building has been awarded," he said.

In line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, particularly Section 1(2) and in relation to the recruitment exercise stated in the aforementioned reports, we hereby request the following:

1. Name of the company contracted to handle the recruitment exercise
2. Kindly state the process of selections of the contracted company

1 https://www.newsdiplomatnews.com/2020/01/18/alleged-n1-6bn-recruitment-fraud-protests-relations-against-customs-headquarters/
And in relation to the renovation of the Nigeria Customs Service headquarters, we request the following:

1. When was the Nigeria Customs Service allocated the sum of 2.7 billion for renovations? And what eventually happened to the allocated fund?
2. Please kindly state the amount appropriated by the National Assembly for the renovation of the Nigeria Customs Service headquarters in 2019
3. Breakdown of the monies spent so far on the renovation

Should you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach us on 08106292155 or via info@hedang.org.

At HEDA Resource Centre, this request 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, in accordance with international standards. And in the bid to strengthening the course of accountability and transparency in the civil service, we strongly believe this information will aid our fight against corruption in the public sector.

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 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,

[Signature]

Rebecca David (Miss)
Legal Officer

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