



13 November 2020

The Solicitor General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Justice
Justice Headquarters
Shehu Shagari Way
Maitama
Abuja

Dear Sir

**RE: 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 was borne out of the widely circulated media report on the suspension of Okoi Obono Obia as the Chairman, Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property. Punch Newspaper reported on the 18th September 2019 that President Muhammadu Buhari suspended the panel which was to investigate specifically mandated cases of corruption, abuse of office and similar offences by public officers. The president ordered the transfer of responsibilities to the Solicitor General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary to continue with all outstanding investigations and other activities of the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property.

In relation to the above, a correspondence dated the 29th August 2019 from the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property to the Solicitor General of the Federation with reference number, SGF/PS/SPIP1733, titled, "**RE-REPORT ON ALL PROSECUTION AND COURT PROCESSES**" obtained by our organization, the letter details a response from the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property to a letter from the Solicitor General of the Federation dated the 15th August 2019.

According to Punch newspaper report of the 18th September 2019, the said transfer by Special Presidential

Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property was effected sometime in August 2019. However, this is 5 months post transfer of the cases to the office of the Solicitor General of the Federation and the Permanent Secretary but the public has been left in the dark on the progress report of the cases.

In relation to the above relayed, we wrote a request dated the 4th February 2020 and we received a response on the 3rd March 2020 which relayed that our request falls within the exemption as encapsulated in Section 12 (1) (a) (i) & (vi). We write this letter relay that our request doesn't fall within the referenced section.

Flowing from the paragraph above, we write this letter as a fresh request in order to reiterate our request as relayed below;

1. Kindly provide update on actions taken by your office on the 23 cases transferred by the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property to the office of the Solicitor General of the Federation and the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Justice in August 2019
2. Kindly give a detailed report on the progress of each of these 23 cases from the date of transfer till date.

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.

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

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Rebecca David (Miss)
Legal Officer

