



28th June 2020

The Chairman
Code of Conduct Bureau
Federal Secretariat Complex
Aliyu Shehu Shagari Way
Maitama
Abuja



Dear Sir,

DEMAND FOR URGENT INVESTIGATION AND PROBE - DR. MATTHIAS NNADI

The above subject matter refers.

We write concerning the above subject matter as a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league with the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, following international standards.

As part of our work as civil society organization keen on strengthening and ensuring public awareness and participation, our organization devised a means for the public to reach our organization directly and other law enforcement agencies indirectly by availing the public the privilege to blow the whistle on cases related to corruption and human rights violation via our toll-free line. We received an anonymous call relaying allegation of corruption against the above named former government official.

According to the caller, Dr. Matthias Nnadi was a staff of the Rivers State University whilst he was granted a Bonced Scholarship by the Rivers State University to undertake a masters and PhD degrees in the United Kingdom. He was said to have departed to the United Kingdom in the year 2004, however, after the completion of his degrees in 2009, he failed to return to the country, as agreed in the terms of his scholarship. It was alleged that whilst he was away in the United Kingdom, he got employed into another job and while he was still drawing salaries from the Rivers State University at the same time. And as a result of this alleged fraudulent act, in December of the year 2016, his fraud was discovered and the Rivers State University terminated his appointment and was reported to the Special Presidential Panel on the Recovery of Public Property.

In the light of the report and the allegations by the anonymous caller, we have distilled the following actions/allegations initiated against Dr. Matthias Nnadi, a UK based Nigerian citizen as follows;

1. The illegal receipt of remuneration from two paid employments; receiving salary from the Rivers State University between the years 2010 – 2016 while also receiving remuneration from the Cranfield University, Bedford, United Kingdom.

Attached to this petition are letters dated the 25th and 26th March 2019 from the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for The Recovery of Public Property to the Vice Chancellor of Cranfield University inviting Dr. Matthias Nnadi for questioning. Attached also are the letters of his dismissal from the Rivers State University and documents in relation his appointment in Cranfield University, United Kingdom.

The above conveyed constitutes a flagrant abuse of office and the undue exercise of privilege and impunity by a public officer. It portrays total disrespect for democracy and the citizens as a whole and breach of trust. A breach of established precepts and laws. This also represents a failed and a permeable system. We most humbly hold that the above allegations levelled against the Dr. Matthias Nnadi is a reflection of strong disdain for public accountability and established checks and balances under the laws.

The above allegations run afoul of the **Code of Conducts for Public officers, Part 1, of The fifth schedule in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered), Section 1 of the Code** states that a public officer shall not put himself in a position where his interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities. **Section 2 of the Code** states that without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph, a public officer shall not receive or be paid the emoluments of any public office at the same time as he receives or is paid the emoluments of any other public office. Also, **Section 10 of the Code** which states that public officer shall not be a member of, belong to, or take part in any society the membership of which is incompatible with the functions or dignity of his office.

The Code of Conduct of Public Officers states in **Section 18 of the Code** that

"(1) Where the Code of Conduct Tribunal finds a public officer guilty of contravention of any of the provisions of this Code it shall impose upon that officer any of the punishments specified under sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph and such other punishment as may be prescribed by the National Assembly.

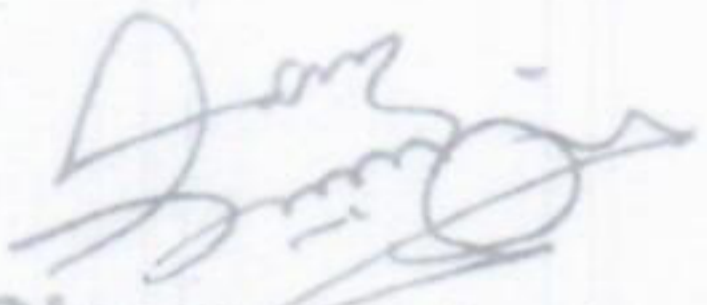
(2) The punishment which the Code of Conduct Tribunal may impose shall include any of the following -

- (a) vacation of office or seat in any legislative house, as the case may be;*
- (b) disqualification from membership of a legislative house and from the holding of any public office for a period not exceeding ten years; and*
- (c) seizure and forfeiture to the State of any property acquired in abuse or corruption of office."*

We write to demand the Bureau to activate its powers as vested in Code of Conduct Tribunal by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. However, our organization strongly believes in due process and the rule of law; hence, the reason we have forwarded this petition to your office. We humbly demand that an urgent and immediate investigation be initiated on the above report to uncover the true position of these allegations with the aim of shedding light and possible prosecution and recovery of every penny stolen or illegally received from the coffers of Nigeria.

We anticipate your usual prompt response.

Yours faithfully



Olaprewaju Suraju
Chairman

CC:

1. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
Aso Villa
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja

