



7th December 2020

Mr. Abubakar Malami

Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice
Federal Ministry of Justice
Plot 71B Shehu Shagari Way
Maitama
Abuja



Dear Sir;

Director-General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP): Intervention in the appointment of Mrs. Sulaimon Ibrahim

I write this petition on behalf of HEDA Resource Centre, 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.

I write based on the report published by Premium Times on the 2nd December 2020¹. The report covered the presidential appointment of a non-public servant as the Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

Every Agency has laws establishing it; the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is no exception. **Section 8(1) of the TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (PROHIBITION) ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ACT, NO. 4, 2015** states as follows;

***“(1) There shall be for the Agency, a Director-General who shall be from the Directorate Cadre in the Public Service of the Federation or its equivalent in any law enforcement service and shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.*”**

It was alleged in the report under reference that Mrs. Sulaimon-Ibrahim is a politician and businesswoman that deals in the distribution of products, which we believe, is not within the contemplated directorate cadre in the public service and she also does not possess the requisite experience to occupy the position. It was conveyed in another report by Premium Times on the 1st December 2020², that prior to her appointment, she was a member of the Nasarawa State Economic Advisory Council as well as Special Adviser on Strategic Communication to the Minister of State for Education, this does not meet the requirement for appointment under the provisions of Section 8(1) of the NAPTIP Act.

The words of the drafters **“SHALL”** in Section 8(1) referenced above is of a mandatory nature and therefore connotes no room for discretion or otherwise. In other words, in considering persons for the position of the Director General of the Agency, the provisions of this section ought to be placed above and sacrosanct. The Act specifically stated that the person to be elected as the Director General of the Agency shall be within the Directorate cadre of the public service and in this situation, the provisions of the law was completely abandoned.

¹ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/429004-exclusive-buhari-violates-naptip-act-in-appointment-of-agencys-head.html>

² <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/imaan-sulaiman-ibrahim-naptip-buhari-appoints-new-dg/28x1b3r>

Nigeria is a democratic state and I believe our democratic roots should be reflected in the decisions and actions obeying the rule of law. Democracy and rule of law are sesame twins, in order words; laws are put in place to prevent lawlessness and anarchy and to further strengthen the democratic state.

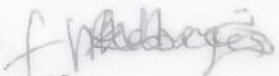
The appointment of Mrs. Sulaimon Ibrahim as the Director General of NAPTIP is a flagrant violation, departure and fall out from the provisions of **Section 8 of the TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (PROHIBITION) ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ACT. NO. 4, 2015**. And being the Minister with the supervisory responsibility over the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), I forward this violation in need of serious intervention.

It is to this end that I forward this complaint to your Ministry for a prompt intervention. I write for the ministry to intervene in appropriately advising the president to immediately reverse the decision of the appointment of Mrs. Sulaimon Ibrahim as the Director-General of the NAPTIP because the decision fails to represent the mandate of this Ministry and the government at large and this can ultimately result in the breakdown of law and order.

We anticipate your usual prompt action and response in this regard. Failure to reverse this action within 2 weeks of the receipt of this petition, this organization will be left with no option that to seek a legal redress through a competent court of jurisdiction.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman

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