

26th July, 2019

The Governor
Central Bank of Nigeria
Plot 33, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Way
Central Business District, Cadastral Zone
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja



Dear Sir,

PETITION AGAINST DINO MELAYE FOR THE CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 21 OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA ACT, 2007

The above subject matter refers.

PM News via a report published on the 15th July, 2019¹, conveyed that Dino Melaye, representative of Kogi West Senatorial district, was allegedly caught in a video recording spraying wads of cash on guests at his mother's burial reception party which held at Gbede, Kogi State.

Our petition is hinged on the provisions of Section 21 of the Central Bank Act, 2007 and it states as follows;

- (1) *A person who tampers with a coin or note issued by the Bank is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on imprisonment for a term not less than six months or to a fine not less than N50,000 or to both such fine and imprisonment.*
- (2) *A coin or note shall be deemed to have been tampered with if the coin or note has been impaired, diminished or lightened otherwise than by fair wear and tear or has been defaced by stumping, engraving, mutilating, piercing, stapling, writing, tearing, soiling, squeezing or any other form of deliberate and willful abuse whether the coin or note has or has not been thereby diminished or lightened.*

The Act goes on in Section 21 (3) that for avoidance of doubt and in addition to the Provisions of Section 21 (1& 2), it also states as follows;

- (3) *For the avoidance of doubt, spraying of, dancing or matching on the Naira or any note issued by the Bank during social occasions or otherwise howsoever shall constitute an abuse and defacing of the Naira or such note and shall be punishable under sub-section (1) of this section*

The Act also defines the words "Matching" and "Spraying" in Section 21 (5);

- (i) *"Matching" includes spreading scattering or littering of any surface with any Naira notes or coins and stepping thereon, regardless of the value, volume, occasion or intent.*
- (ii) *"Spraying" includes adorning, decorating or spraying anything or any person or any part of any person or the person of another with Naira notes or coins or sprinkling or sticking of the Naira notes or coins in a similar manner regardless of the amount, occasion or the intent.*

¹ <https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2019/07/15/watch-dino-melaye-sprays-money-on-ayefele-at-mothers-burial/>

Critical review of the video that has gone viral over the social media, it goes to the root of irony as men and women elected into power who ought to lead by example are the ones found at the stem of disobeying and breaking the laws and this only goes to show the irony and the complete lack of integrity in our electoral process that we elect into power men and women who make laws and still find it difficult to abide by them.

Our organization is perturbed at the disgraceful flouting of the law by a supposed lawmaker as this is a display of complete mockery of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended) in Section 4 (2) that the National Assembly shall have power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation or any part thereof with respect to any matter included in the Exclusive Legislative List set out in Part I of the Second Schedule to this Constitution. We believe this action of the lawmaker is an outright violation of and disregard for the currency and also show of bad precedence.

Leaders ought to lead by example and in accordance with provisions of the law. The Act in reference is absolutely clear on the provisions as stated above. However, our organization believes in the presumption of innocence; hence the need for this petition and your prompt action as demanded.

The position occupied by the Senator Dino Melaye, being a public office is one that calls for utmost integrity, accountability and responsibility but not above the law with public disdain as allegedly displayed at the ceremony. Based on the above conveyed report, we believe this allegation of spraying the currency amounts to tampering with the currency which is founded in Section 21 of the Central Bank Act, 2007 which is an offence punishable under the same section. Therefore, we hereby demand for an immediate and urgent investigation of the said allegation of spraying of money in the video in line with the provisions of the law and with the view to visiting the perpetrators with the groins of the law.


We are 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, in accordance with international standards. Also, we are an organization relentless on seeing transparency and accountability and adherence to rule of law actualized. Owing to this backdrop, we hereby appeal that your office ensures that this matter is properly, effectively and painstakingly investigated with a view to setting an example in order to serve as a deterrent to similar acts in the future.

Our demand is strongly anchored and founded on our patriotic mandate to promote and foster accountability, respect for institution and rule of law while ensuring transparency and participatory governance in the country.

We look forward to your usual prompt response and action.

While thanking you in advance of your anticipated response and action, accept our best regards.

Yours faithfully,


Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman