



4th November 2019

The Director-General
Department of State Services
Three Arms Zone
Maitama
Abuja

Dear Sir,

**DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE EDUCATIONAL
BACKGROUND OF MR. OTOBONG NDEM**

The above subject matter refers.

On Friday, 1st November 2019, Punch Newspaper reported that on Thursday 31st October 2019, whilst the Senate Committee on the Niger Delta Development Commission screened the persons nominated by the President to the Board for the Niger Delta Development Commission; It was reportedly discovered during the screening exercise by Senator Matthew Urhoghide the disparity of the dates in the educational background of one of the nominees Otobong Ndem.

According to the report, the Senator noted that Mr. Otobong Ndem allegedly claimed to have obtained his National Diploma in 1999, Higher National Diploma in 2002 whilst his School Certificate in 2007. According to the report, yet another member of the Senate Committee observed that Mr. Otobong Edem claimed to have obtained his Master's degree in 2012 whilst his Bachelor's degree in 2019.

According to the Nigerian educational system, it is only upon successful completion of the school certificate examination and the issuance of a school certificate that any student can be admitted into a university and it is only after a bachelor's degree is obtained that a master's degree can be obtained.

According to the report, the nominee, Mr. Otobong Ndem was alleged to have obtained a National Diploma, Higher National Diploma before a school

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certificate and also a master's degree was obtained before a bachelor's degree. We do not presume guilty until proven so, it is against this backdrop that we write this petition to your office for immediate steps to investigate these allegations raised against Mr. Otobong Ndem. According to the procedure for appearance before the National Assembly by a nominee of Government, clearance is obtained by such nominee from your agency. It is, therefore, befuddling to note this situation with the particular nominee and the inability of your service to detect this alleged fraud before his appearance before the Senate.

Persons who are to occupy public offices must possess all sense of accountability, honesty, and accountability. Allegations of these natures need to be taken seriously. We hereby demand the immediate investigation of the allegations raised in the report under reference.

Our demand is based on our mandate to promote the rule of law, accountability, and transparency across all levels of government.

We anticipate your prompt response and action in this regard.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


f **Olanrewaju Suraju**
Chairman