



8th June 2020

The Acting Chairman
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
EFCC Headquarters, Idu
Abuja



Dear Sir,

DEMAND FOR URGENT INVESTIGATION AND PROBE – MR. JOHN ASEIN OHIREIME

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, abuse of office and human rights violation via our toll-free line. We received an anonymous call relaying allegation of corruption and abuse of office against the above named public officer.

In the light of the report, additional documentary evidence attached and the allegations by the anonymous caller, we have distilled the following infractions/allegations against the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission as follows;

1. The collection of remuneration after retirement, allegations of receiving salary between January – April 2016 after retiring in December 2015 which is contrary to the Code of Conduct for Public Officers. Attached to this letter are payment slips.
2. Whilst being a director at the Nigerian Copyright Commission, he served as a director of the Books and Gavel, private Company Limited by Shares. Attached are the incorporation documents of the private company.
3. Also, the allegation of receiving salary from a public office and holding the position of Executive Director of the Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria (REPRONIG), a Collective Management Organisation (CMO) regulated by the Nigerian Copyright Commission. Attached are bank statement of accounts showing receipt of salary.
4. Redeployment of staff without Nigerian Copyright Commission Governing Board approval.
5. Authorisation of Raid of Aba Booksellers in the bid to demand bribe from the booksellers.

The above conveyed constitutes a flagrant abuse of office and the undue exercise of privilege and impunity by a public officer. The allegations against the DG are against the

Public Service Rules, Code of Public Officer and the Penal Code. We most humbly hold that the above allegations levelled against the Director General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission is a strong disdain for public accountability and established checks and balances under the laws.

We hereby request the Commission to revisit its powers as vested in **Section 6 (h)** and **Section 7(1(a)) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004. Section 6(h) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004** which states one of the functions of the Commission as the examination and investigation of all reported cases of economic and financial **crimes with a view to identifying individuals, corporate bodies or groups involved;** also **Section 7 (1(a)) of the Act** states that the Commission has power to cause investigations to be conducted as to whether any person, corporate body or organisation has committed an offence under this Act or other law relating to economic and financial crimes.

We humbly demand an urgent and immediate investigation be initiated in relation to the above report with the aim of uncovering defaulters of the alleged fraudulent transactions in order to serve as a deterrent to future offenders.

We believe strongly in due process and the rule of law which is why we are forwarding this petition to your office for an urgent action. 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 veracity and possible prosecution.

We anticipate your usual prompt response.

Yours faithfully



Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman

CC:

- 1. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
Aso Villa
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja
- 2. Tonye Clinton Jaja**
Chairman of the Nigerian Copyright Commission Board

Rtn to CU Lagos