



16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Professor Bolaji Owasanoye SAN  
Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and  
Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)  
Plot 802, Constitution Avenue  
Zone A9, Central Business District  
Federal Capital Territory  
Abuja



Dear Sir,

**PETITION AGAINST PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICERS AT THE ALAUSA  
PASSPORT OFFICE, ALAUSA, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE**

We write on the above subject matter as a leading Anti-Corruption Organization in Nigeria and Non-partisan Human Rights and Development league with the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, public accountability, transparency and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with International best standards.

Through our toll free line, we received a report from a caller on the grand corruption and extortion publicly going on at the Alausa Passport Office, Ikeja by Passport Control Officers. The caller alleged that the passport office that is meant to be a reputable institution is nothing but a mere market place where money exchange hands by officers, touts, agents, downloaders, cleaners (turned maintenance staff) and passport racketeers due to the high level of extortions.

It is noteworthy that the visit of the Comptroller-General; Mr. Idris Jere to the Alausa and Ikoyi passport offices in Lagos after assuming office as the Acting Comptroller-General of Immigration Service confirmed the grand corruption and extortion going on in this offices when he apprehended some officers during his surprise visit under a guise of a service seeker. However, that one act of the Comptroller-General does not appear enough to clean the passport office of the corruption and extortion.

The caller informed us that he conducted a private investigation and found out that the passport offices, especially Alausa passport office has been taken over by passport agents, cleaners (turned maintenance staff), touts, downloaders and passport racketeers who are always found in various parts of the offices, compounds and outside in the street. These agents who are working with the passport officers are usually at the Magrelos fast food kiosk and its environs, the path leading to the public toilets and the

waiting area in the compound in groups, individual and multitudes, competing with the small spaces meant for applicants.

While some are right inside the fast food kiosk, others are seen around counting money openly as if they were in a market place. All these happenings are not without the knowledge of the officer in charge, Mrs R.S Bukar who was brought in to clean a corrupt system just like her counterparts in Ikoyi and Festac, as opined by the immigration boss. A stroll into the office from the gate shows that the system needs total overhaul.

We were informed that once an applicant approaches an officer for an enquiry, the applicant will be asked if his NIN and other documents are available and to wait for someone, while the officer either direct applicant or make a call to a person in mufti from outside or inside the compound, especially seated at the waiting area, inside magrelos or its environs who attends to the applicant by giving out form to fill and ask for money in order to start the process. The applicant might be told to go and make payment online by themselves if considered too inquisitive, or is suspected of being a journalist, detective, undercover agent etc. After making payment to their conspirators in mufti, the applicant will be asked to come back for capturing.

The P.C.O (passport control officer) surprisingly has consistently failed to provide expected leadership or attempt at containing the extortions taking place in the office as various illegal fees are imposed on the public such as the following;

1. N3,000.00 for paging/sorting/co-ordination/compliance (depending on the passport office)
2. N5,000.00 for filled up pages of passport
3. N10,000.00 for finger print bypass (unable to acquire complete finger print due to natural or artificial cause)
4. N10,000.00 for fast track
5. N10,000.00 for migration (passport exceeding six months' validity)
6. N14,500.00 for change of name due to marriage or divorce
7. N17,500.00 for loss of passport.

All the above extortions take place in various offices as directed by the officers. The numbers 2, 3 and 5 take place in the offices of Mrs. Bukar (P.C.O), Mr. (Barr.) Ogedengbe (special assistant/officer in charge of operations) now 2i/c and Mr. Aiyegbusi (the second in command of Alausa passport office) now posted to another section, through an officer called Mr. Awe, attached to the P.C.O. While number 2, 4, 6 and 7 take place at the marriage and loss office, headed by a dark slim man, Mr. Ahmed (an officer with an eagle and a star rank), a dark and fair female officers; Memoh and Esene (with an eagle rank each), a dark short male officer Ahmed (with two stars rank), a chocolate slim female officer Musa (with a star rank) and a dark young female officer called Vera (with stripe rank). The number 4 is also handled by two senior officers in the production unit (opposite the marriage and loss unit office) two stars and a short dark male officer, Mr. Habeeb (with an eagle and a star rank). Number 1 takes place at an office with a burglary, just immediately after the male toilet to the left side

and opposite the female toilet entrance, where a fair male officer and a slim dark female officers are seen collecting files and money from their colleagues and others in mufti, clustering or waiting in turn at the passage and chanting their names as Patrick and Blessing.

We were also informed that N3000.00 (three thousand naira) must be paid in addition to 2 - 7 payments because failure to comply means your passport will not be produced. All this are happening at the top floor housing the o/c, 2ic and 3ic. The most touching of the extortions are applicants with finger print challenge due to a natural or artificial cause, will have to get a medical report from an acceptable hospital and make to pay such an amount which are never found in the portal of Nigeria Immigration Service, not considering his/her medical condition.

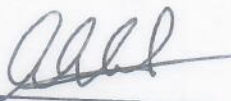
The caller further informed us that all these monies averaging twenty-five million naira (N25,000,000.00) monthly collected are concealed allegedly with Mrs R.S Bukar because each time you ask why all these charges, they in turn reply that, "the money is going all the way up".

The above allegation of grand corruption and extortion if true, is disheartening and embarrassing to the country. The Federal Government put in place a payment portal for the payment and processing of passport by applicants but it appears the reason why this portal is not functioning optimally is due to the grand corruption and extortion being carried out at the various passport offices in the country. Many applicants applying for passports do complains of the delay they experience in the processing of passport and taking of biometrics.

It is based on the above reason, with our mandate as an anti-corruption organization and also to salvage what is left of this system. that we kindly call on the Commission to diligently investigate these allegations and if shown to be true, prosecute everyone involve in this embarrassing act of corruption.

We thank you while looking forward to a diligent and comprehensive investigation and action on this petition as you are assured of our usual cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

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**Mr. Sina Odugbemi**  
**Program Manager**