

INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES
& OTHER RELATED OFFENCES
COMMISSION (ICPC)
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28th March, 2019

The Chairman
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission
Plot 802 Constitution Avenue,
Central Business District,
Garki,
Abuja

Dear Sir,

URGENT AND IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS OF INAPPROPRIATE APPROVALS OF STATUTORY RIGHTS OF OCCUPANCY FOR LARGE PLOTS OF LAND TO PROMINENT POLITICAL LEADERS BY THE MINISTER, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, MOHAMMED MUSA BELLO (MR.)

The above subject matter refers.

Sahara Reporters via a report published on the 12th March, 2019¹, conveyed in the report that the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) alleged approved large portions of land of about 6000 square metres by signing out statutory rights of occupancy to known politicians.

It was reported that the beneficiaries of the said signing out are the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the Chief of Staff to the President, Abba Kyari; former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal; current Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Gida Mustapha; former Director-General of the Department of State Services, Lawal Daura; Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi; Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika; the Senate President, Abubakar Bukola Saraki are among the prominent names whose allocations' right of occupancy (R of O) have been delivered.

It was reported as follows and I quote;

"The Minister personally took care of himself, members of the federal cabinet, principal officers of the two chambers of the legislature and many of President Muhammadu Buhari's aides with two choice allocations of 6,000 square metres each. Separate choice plots in Maitama and Guzape districts were received by each beneficiary. Other beneficiaries of the land allocation largesse with only a plot each are non-principal officers of the National Assembly and fringe aides within the Presidency"

¹ <http://saharareporters.com/2019/03/12/abuja-land-scandal-buharis-minister-awards-choice-plots-land-saraki-abba-kyari-amaechi>

Also captured in the report under reference are scanned copies of the alleged granted statutory right of occupancy certificates and we have carefully combed out, some vital details from the Certificates as follows for ease of comprehension;

1. Certificate No. 019506
Name: Abubakar Olubukola Saraki
Address: 48, Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
New File No: KW 62891
R of O Date: 20/07/2018
2. Certificate No. 019535
Name: Abubakar Olubukola Saraki
Address: 48, Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
New File No: KW 62897
R of O Date: 20/07/2018
3. Certificate No. 019529
Name: Lawal Daura Musa
Address: 2, Fela Anikulapo kuti, Gwarinpa, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
New File No: KT 62803
R of O Date: 23/07/2018
4. Certificate No. 019230
Name: Adamu Adamu
Address: 23 21 Road, Gwarinpa, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
New File No: BA 64475
R of O Date: 13/6/2018
5. Certificate No. 019285
Name: Hadi Abubakar Sirika
Address: 425 Dennis Osadebey Crescent, Apo Legislative Qtrs, Abuja, FCT
New File No: KT 62719
R of O Date: 27/6/2018
6. Certificate No. 019325
Name: Abba Kyari
Address: 6, Yahaya Imana, Kaduna, Kaduna, Nigeria
New File No: BO 63294
R of O Date: 11/07/2018
7. Certificate No. 019227
Name: Mohammed Musa Bello
Address: 15, Ibrahim Atta Road, Jimeta, Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria
New File No: AD 62497
R of O Date: 13/06/2018
8. Certificate No. 019249

Name: Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi
Address: 1, Ikejiani-Clark Street, Guzape, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
New File No: RV 61825
R of O Date: 13/06/2018

9. Certificate No. 019228
Name: Babachir David Lawal
Address: 9B, Dabo Road, Barnawa, Kaduna, Kaduna State
New File No: AD 63010
R of O Date: 13/06/2018

10. Certificate No. 019252
Name: Boss Gida Mustapha
Address: 16, Iller Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
New File No: BO 63116
R of O Date: 13/06/2018

Our petition is strongly founded on the provisions of the law and **Section 6(a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000** states:

"it shall be the duty of the Commission- (a) Where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that any person has conspire to commit or has attempted to commit or has committed an offence under this Act or any other law prohibiting Corruption, to receive and investigate any report of the conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit or the Commission of such offence and, in appropriate cases, to prosecute the offenders..."

And also in furtherance of the above, it is important to also note that this Act also spells out in **Sections 27(2) and (3)** that *every report, whether in writing or reduced into writing, shall be entered in the book kept at the office of the commission and there shall be appended to such entry the date and hour at which such report was made and Section 27(3) states that where an officer of the commission has reasons to suspect the commission of an offence under this Act, following a report made under sub-section (1) or information otherwise received by him, he shall cause investigator to be made for such purpose may exercise all the powers of investigation provided for under this Act or any other law.*

We strongly believe that the allegations are worthy of immediate and urgent scrutiny as **Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000** states that any public officer who uses his office or position to gratify or confer any corrupt or unfair advantage upon himself or any relation or associate of the public officer or any other public officer shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for five (5) years without option of fine.

Furthermore in the same Act, **Section (20)** provides for the punishment of the offence in **Section 19** and the section states that *without prejudice to any sentence of imprisonment imposed under this Act, a public officer or other person found guilty of soliciting, offering or receiving gratification shall forfeit the gratification and pay a fine of not less than five times the sum of the value of the gratification which is the subject-matter of the offence where such gratification is capable of being valued or is of a pecuniary nature, or ten thousand naira, whichever is higher.*

The provisions of the law are absolutely clear on the powers conferred on the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission to investigate and if found culpable, proceed to onward prosecution. Our organization believes in the presumption of innocence and the upholding of due process; hence the need for this petition in order to invoke the powers vested on the Commission.

The position occupied by the Honourable Minister FCT, Mohammed Musa Bello, being a public office is one that calls for utmost integrity, accountability and responsibility. Hence, based on the above conveyed report, we believe this allegation of approving large portions of land of about 6,000 square metres by signing out statutory rights of occupancy to known politicians is weighty and should be treated with all sense of importance and in turn, we hereby demand for an immediate and urgent investigation of the said alleged signing out of statutory rights of occupancy to known politicians in line with the provisions of the law and with the view to visiting the perpetrators with the groins of the law.

And Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) is a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league. It has the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards.

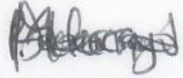
We as an organization relentless on seeing transparency and accountability actualized, owing to this backdrop, we hereby appeal that you use your good office to ensure that this matter is properly, effectively and painstakingly investigated with a view to that the perpetrators are uncovered in order to serve as a deterrent in order stall similar acts in the future. Names were mentioned and referenced to support some of the assertions made in the report and are capable of assisting your commission in the thorough investigation of the allegations.

Our demand is strongly anchored and founded on our patriotic mandate to promote and foster accountability while ensuring transparency and participatory governance in the country.

We look forward to your usual prompt response and action.

While thanking you, accept our best regards.

Yours faithfully,


f Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman