5th August 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,

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED BREACH OF THE OYO STATE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW 2010, CONFLICT OF INTEREST, EMBEZZLEMENT AND STEALING OF PUBLIC FUNDS THROUGH CONTRACT INFLATION IN THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS TO UNREGISTERED COMPANIES OF A FRIEND AND CRONY: ORIYOMI HAMZAT

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.

On the 1st day of August 2022, it was reported by Dataphyte; an online news outlet that a review of data from the Oyo State contracting portal reveals a now familiar trend of contract irregularities as the State again awarded contracts worth N694 Million to persons closely linked to the Governor. The Oyo State government awarded contracts worth a total of N1.2 Billion between 2019 and 2021 to a friend of the Oyo State Governor; Oriyomi Hamzat and cronies without adhering to the provisions of the Oyo State Public Procurement Law 2010.

It was reported that 7 companies linked to Oriyomi Hamzat got 13 different contracts from the Oyo State government. The companies are: Insider multipurpose ventures got two contracts worth N118 Million, Sure Etiquette Media Plus limited got two contracts worth N112 Million, Porsh Diversify Ventures was awarded two contracts worth N112 Million, Icon Printing Press got two contracts worth N102 Million, SEWA International Ventures with two contracts worth N100 Million, JEDA Global Ventures with contracts worth N100 Million and ASP integrated ventures had a contract worth N50 Million.

From the report, it was revealed that some of the companies have no known or traceable addresses and they can be safely described as shell companies which is prohibited by
the Companies and Allied Matter Acts 2020 and awarding contracts to these companies is also a flagrant breach of the Oyo State Public Procurement Law 2010. On the Corporate Affairs Commission portal, it can be seen that some of the companies are not incorporated to carry out the contracts which they were awarded.

Amongst the 13 contracts awarded to Oriyomi Hamzat, the Oyo State government awarded a contract with its amount ranging between N50 Million to N62 Million for production of notebooks for students of public secondary school in the State. The production cost of the sixty leaves quoted by the company was pegged at N280 while the market price of the same sixty leaves notebook is N150. This shows allegation of contract inflation and embezzlement of public funds².

It is noteworthy that the above allegations are very serious and fundamental to the economic growth of the State. Hence, we request the Commission to diligently investigate this very serious allegations against the Oyo State Governor, government officials and Oriyomi Hamzat and prosecute anyone found culpable.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman