



11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

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



Dear Sir,

**DEMAND FOR URGENT AND IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL  
LEADERS INVOLVED IN PANDEMIC PALLIATIVE SCANDALS**

I write concerning the above subject matter and on behalf of Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) 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.

HEDA wishes to call the attention of your Commission to the despicable cases of the alleged diversion and conversion of Covid19 palliatives by public office holders. The following cases are well reported and there are several of them:

- a. The case reported by Sahara Reporters of Mrs. Alli-Macauley, a member of the Lagos State House of Assembly who was alleged to have used palliatives donated by the Coalition Against COVID-19 (CACOVID) to celebrate her birthday.<sup>1</sup>
- b. The case reported by The Nation Newspaper of Adebisi Azeez, and Sunday Akinleye in charge of palliatives at the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Oyo State for stealing 40 bags of Dangote Sugar and selling them<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><http://saharareporters.com/2020/10/30/nigerians-expose-how-lagos-assembly-member-alli-macauley-used-covid-19-palliatives>

<sup>2</sup><https://thenationonlineng.net/oyo-govt-officials-arraigned-for-selling-covid-19-palliatives/>

- c. The case reported by Premium Times<sup>3</sup> of Ephraim Inyangen, the Chief of Staff to Governor of Akwa Ibom was alleged to have diverted food aid donated nationwide to cushion the impact of the COVID-19, as christmas gifts.

The above conveyed constitute a flagrant abuse of office and the undue exercise of privilege and impunity by public officers. This is equally tantamount to stealing and or illegal conversion. It shows height of lack of empathy and the level of greed at the core of government systems. We most humbly hold that the above allegations levelled against the above named persons amount to strong disdain for public accountability and established checks and balances under the laws.

The above allegations run afoul of the **Code of Conducts for Public officers, Part 1, of the fifth schedule in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered), Rule 1 of the Code** states that a public officer shall not put himself in a position where his interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities. **Section 9 of the Code** also covers that a public officer shall not do or direct to be done, in abuse of his office, any arbitrary act prejudicial to the rights of any other person knowing that such an act is unlawful or contrary to any government policy. The above highlight allegations of various contravention of the code of conduct and specifically

It is against this backdrop that we hereby request the Commission to invoke its powers as vested in **Section 6(a) of The Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act, 2020. Section 6(h) of the Act** states that it is the duty of the Commission - **"(a) where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that any person has conspired 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; hence the need for an investigation into the above allegation. The Commission has the locus to investigate the allegation being the body saddled with investigating allegations of corruption levelled against public servants"**.

The above relayed in the report needs immediate and urgent attention by your Commission, hence, our petition is strongly founded on the provisions of the law, **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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/433162-akwa-ibom-governors-aide-shares-covid-19-palliatives-as-christmas-gifts.html>

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 above reported cases 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.

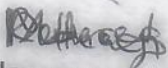
The provisions of the law are absolutely clear on the powers conferred on the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission to investigate.

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. Names were mentioned and referenced to support some of the assertions made in the report and are capable of assisting your Commission in a thorough investigation.

We look forward to your usual prompt response and action.

While thanking you, accept our best regards.

Yours faithfully,

  
f Olanrewaju Suraju  
Chairman

CC: **The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**  
**Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**  
**Aso Villa**  
**Federal Capital Territory**  
**Abuja**