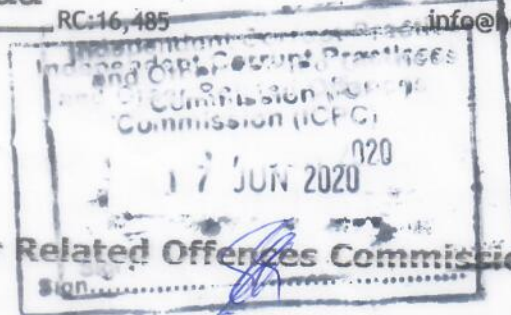




8th June 2020

The Chairman
Independent Corrupt and Other Related Offences Commission
Plot 802 Constitution Avenue
Central Area
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 and human rights violation via our toll-free line. We received an anonymous call relaying allegations of corruption against the above named public officer. In 2015, the present Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission was a Director in NCC. According to caller, he retired as a Director in December 2015 but according to the attached Federal Government payslip in favour of the officer, he continued to receive monthly salary for the months of January, February, March and April 2016; and these salary payments were after his retirement in December 2015.

The above relayed emphasises Section 96 of the Penal Code on Criminal Conspiracy and it states as follows

"(1) When two or more persons agree to do or cause to be done-

(a) an illegal act; or

(b) an act which is not illegal by illegal means, such an agreement is called a criminal conspiracy.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, agreement except an agreement to commit an offence shall amount to a

conspiracy unless some act besides the agreement is done by one or more parties to that agreement in pursuance thereof"

Also the offence of receiving stole property can also be deduced, **Section 317 of the Penal Code** states that **"Whoever dishonestly receives or retains a stolen property knowing or having reason to believe the same to be stolen property shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to fourteen years or with fine or with both"**

Also Section 132 of the Penal Code is worthy of note which states that, **"Whoever pretends to hold a particular office as a public officer knowing that he does not hold that office, or falsely personates any other person holding that office, and in that assumed character does or attempts to do an act under colour of such office, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both"**

As at 2015, the director-general of NCC was director at NCC, so upon retirement, he is entitled to pension and not the receipt of salary. Based on the above relayed, the possibilities of the following offences of abuse of power, criminal conspiracy, fraudulent misrepresentation and obtaining of under false pretence/receiving stolen property.

In the light of the report and the allegations by the anonymous caller, we have distilled the following actions/allegations against the current Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission as follows;

1. The collection of remuneration after retirement in allegations of receiving salary between January - April 2016 after retiring in December 2015. Attached are copies of the payment slip.
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.

The above conveyed constitutes a flagrant abuse of office and the undue exercise of privilege and impunity by a public officer. 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 and is worthy of diligent scrutiny.

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**

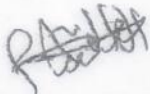
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conspired to commit or has attempted to commit or has committed an offence under this Act or any other law prohibiting corruption, to receive and investigate any report of the conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit or the commission of such offence 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".

We believe strongly in due process and the rule of law which is why we have forwarded this petition to your office for an urgent action. We humbly demand that an investigation be initiated on the above report to uncover the true position of these allegations with the aim of verification 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. **Secretary to the Government of the Federation**
Shehu Shagari Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja
3. **Office of The Head of The Civil Service of The Federation**
Federal Secretariat Complex (Phase II)
Shehu Shagari Way
FCT
Abuja
4. **Tonye Clinton Jaja**
Chairman of the Nigerian Copyright Commission Board