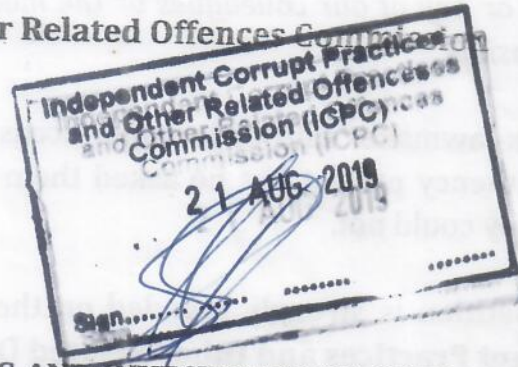


6th August, 2019

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



Dear Sir,

**DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE QUESTIONING AND INVESTIGATION OF FORMER HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBER, TONY NWULU INTO THE PROJECT BUDGETARY
ALLOCATION OF OSODI-ISOLO II CONSTITUENCY**

The above subject refers.

We are an organisation with transparency, accountability at the bedrock of our core mandate and this has influenced why we have written this petition. Our petition is brought based on the report of Orderpaper¹, an online media source published on the 6th March 2018 wherein the reporter stated he had been trying to carry out an investigation into the projects carried out by the Former House of Representatives Member. It was reported that the constituents of Oshodi-Isole Federal Constituency of Lagos State were demanding explanations and raising questions as to budgetary allocations and projects of Tony Nwulu.

In addition to the above, Cable News² also published on July 26, 2019 in relation to the report published by Orderpaper, Oke Epia, publisher of OrderPaper Nigeria, wherein it was reported that Tony Nwulu, former member of the house of representative was accused of threatening the life of Oke Epia stating through telephone calls from Tony Nwulu and strange persons some of whom refused to identify themselves. In the report, it was stated that the encounters with the politician started on July 21, 2019 when the former lawmaker posted "unwarranted, grave and unsubstantiated allegations of extortion and blackmail" against the Orderpaper on social media.

¹ <https://www.orderpaper.ng/constrack-trivia-tony-nwulus-projects/>

² <https://www.thecable.ng/tony-nwulu-threatening-my-life-journalist-raises-the-alarm>

Cable News also conveyed that Mr. Nwulu went on a binge of verbal attacks issuing threats with a promise to hunt down the publishers at all costs. An extract from the report by Cable News Paper states as follows;

"Given the wave of attacks against journalists in recent times, we have decided to bring this matter to the public domain and let the world know that should anything untoward happen to me or any of our colleagues or the media establishment itself, Mr. Nwulu should be held responsible."

The ex-lawmaker said OrderPaper accused him of spending millions of naira meant for a constituency project but he asked them to provide evidence to back up their accusation but they could not.

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 investigation 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.

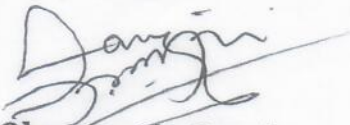
In accordance with and support for your Commission's recent Constituency Projects Tracking Group Initiative, we convey this report, we believe these allegations need effective, immediate and urgent investigation with a view to visiting the perpetrator with the groins of the law. As the Latin Maxim states, *he who comes to equity must come with clean hands*. The reporter only demanded answers as a citizen of the country which we believe he ought to be provided with same.

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,


Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman

