

18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The Chairman  
Independent Corrupt and Other Related Offences Commission  
Plot 802 Constitution Avenue  
Central Area  
Abuja



Dear Sir,

**DEMAND FOR THE URGENT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF THE DISMISSED OFFICIALS OF NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL OVER CERTIFICATE FORGERY**

The above subject matter refers.

It was reported by Punch Newspaper on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019<sup>1</sup> that 70 staff of the National Examination Council (NECO) were recently dismissed by the agency's internal system over certificate forgery. This action was based on a report by the Council's management committee, which discovered that 70 staff had questionable credentials. It was equally reported that some of the staff alleged to have forged credentials were mandated to appear before the management committee and some of the staff allegedly confessed to their credentials being forged. The Governing Board of NECO was reported to have allegedly vetted the report and approved the dismissal of the affected staff.

We believe the above allegations are within the purview of the offences contemplated by the Commission as stated in **Section 25 (1(a) & (b) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000**

**"(25)-(1) Any person who makes or cause any other person to make to an officer of the commission or to any other public officer, in the course of the exercise by such Public officer of the duties of his office, any statement which to the knowledge of the person making the statement, or causing the statement to be made-**

**(a) is false, or intended to mislead or is not true in any material particular; or  
(b) is not consistent with any other statement previously made by such person to any other person having authority or power under any law to receive, or require to be made such other statement notwithstanding that the person making the statement is not under any legal or other obligation to tell the truth, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand naira or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two (2) years or to both such fine and imprisonment.**

**Section 6 (a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000 states that:**

**"it shall be 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"**

<sup>1</sup> <https://punching.com/70-neco-workers-sacked-over-certificate-forgery/>



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Also, we implore the Commission to visit its powers as vested in Section 27 (1-4) of the Act, 2000 to investigate this case being reported reported to the Commission.

**"27. -(1) Every report relating to the commission of an offence under this Act may be made orally or in writing to an officer of the Commission, and if made orally shall be reduced into writing and read over to the person making the report; and every such report shall be signed or thumb- printed by the person making the report and where the person is an illiterate the officer obtaining the report together with a statement to the effect that it was read over and interpreted to the maker.**

**(2) Every report, whether in writing or reduced into writing, shall be entered in 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.**

**(3) 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.**

**(4) A report made under sub-section (1) of this section shall not be disclosed by any person to any person other than officers of the Commission or the Attorney-General until the accused person has been arrested or changed to court for an offence under this Act or any other written law arising from such report."**

The staff of National Examination Council allegedly dismissed are public officers and the Commission as stated in **Section 6 of Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000** is saddled with the responsibility to investigate and prosecute. The above allegations are made against public officers and we hereby recommend the above report for diligent investigation to uncover the true position. The National Examination Council is a public office and its record will aid the speedy investigation and conclusion of the case.


We hereby request the Commission to collaborate with leadership of National Examination Council to aid further investigation and prosecution of the alleged dismissed officials.

We do not send this petition as interlopers but as patriots committed to ridding the country of corruption and corrupt practices and we are desirous of seeing accountability, integrity, probity and transparency enforced across all levels of the governments

We anticipate a prompt action and response in this regard.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

  
**Olanrewaju Suraju**  
Chairman