



**Human &
Environmental
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

11th October 2019

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



Dear Sir

**DEMAND FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION INTO THE SEXUAL
HARRASSMENT SCANDAL AGAINST DR. BONIFACE, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
LECTURER**

The above subject matter refers.

Our petition is based on the report published by BBC Africa eye titled, "Sex for Grades on the 7th of October 2019¹ wherein university lecturers were exposed for sexually harassing students by a reporter, Kiki Mordi. The BBC Africa Eye, reporter, Kiki Mordi and other journalists went undercover posing as students inside the University of Lagos and the University of Ghana.

According to the report, Female students were sexually harassed, propositioned and put under pressure by senior lecturers at the institutions.

We believe this scandal against the lecturers specifically lecturers in the University of Lagos and other universities across the is worthy of investigation and scrutinised because the persons involved are public officers and it is our call for action that the Commission awakens its powers to investigate and prosecute offenses that involve public officers. According to **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 conspired to commit or has attempted to commit or has committed an offense 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 offense and, in appropriate cases, to prosecute the offenders..."

We strongly believe that the allegations are worthy of immediate and urgent scrutiny as **Section 19** of the same Act States inter alia: ***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***

¹ https://www.bbc.com/news/video_and_audio/headlines/49907376/sex-for-grades-undercover-in-west-african-universities

an offense 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 offense 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.***


We are very much aware of internal administrative interventions of the University's but the alleged offence has criminal dimension that is covered under the Act establishing your commission. It is in the light of the above that we implore the Commission to investigate with the aim of prosecuting Dr. Boniface and others fingered in this abuse of office and inhuman violation of dignity of the female students across the country. The video of this undercover investigation is widespread on the internet to aid the Commission's investigation.

Our organisation is available to jointly design and implement constructive undercover intervention into the crisis that is bedevilling our universities across the country. We should strive to protect the sanctity of our citadels of learning and protect our vulnerable girls from predators disguising as lecturers.

While we anticipate your prompt response, please accept the assurances of our esteem considerations.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,


Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman