

10th July, 2018

The Inspector General of Police,
Nigerian Police Force Headquarters
Louis Edet House
Shehu Shagari Way
Central Business District
Abuja.



Dear Sir,

**PETITION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATION OF FORGERY OF NYSC
CERTIFICATE BY FINANCE MINISTER: KEMI ADEOSUN**

The above subject matter refers.

The Human and Environmental Development Agenda Resource Centre is a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league. It has the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards. These objectives are pursued through research and publications, campaigns, human rights education and empowerment projects and programmes.

We are writing to demand that the Nigeria Police conduct an urgent and thorough investigation into the scandalous allegations of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) certificate forgery against Mrs. Kemi Adeosun, Nigeria's finance minister, which was recently brought to limelight by the media.

According to an exclusive report in the publication of PremiumTimes, an online Newspaper, dated the 7th day of July, 2018, Nigeria's finance minister, Kemi Adeosun did not participate in the mandatory one-year National Youth Service Scheme, instead she allegedly forged an exemption certificate many years after graduation.

It is worth noting that the yearlong service organized by the National Youth Service Corps is compulsory for all Nigerians who graduate from universities or equivalent institutions, within or outside Nigeria, at less than 30 years of age. According to the provisions of Section 13 of the NYSC Act, eligible Nigerians who skip the service year are liable to be sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and/or N2000 fine. Section 13(3) of the said Act also further provides for a jail term of three years or option of N5000 fine for anyone who contravenes the provisions of the law.

Section 13(4) of the NYSC Act specifically criminalizes giving false information or illegally obtaining the agency's certificate and as such provides for up to 3 years jail term for offenders.

According to reports, Mrs. Adeosun is said to have graduated from the University of East London, formerly known as Polytechnic of East London in 1989 while she was at the age 22. According to her curriculum vitae, she was born in March, 1967.

Having graduated at 22, it was obligatory for Mrs. Adeosun to participate in the one-year national service, for her to qualify for any job, public or private, in Nigeria. This is premised upon the fact that her entire circumstances do not even in the first place qualify her for an exemption certificate from the mandatory service. However, reports have it that the embattled minister, having being concerned that she might run into trouble for skipping the mandatory scheme, sometime in 2009 allegedly procured a fake exemption certificate.

Further investigation confirming the alleged forgery is the fact that Mrs. Adeosun's purported exemption certificate is dated September 9, 2009 and purportedly signed by Yusuf Bomo, a former Director-General of the corps. However, officials said Mr. Bomo stepped down from the NYSC position in January 2009 and could not have signed any certificate for the corps eight months after.

Top officials of the NYSC, both current and former officials, familiar with the issues of exemption and the likes stated that the NYSC does not issue an exemption certificate to anyone who like the minister, graduates before turning 30.

It is pertinent to note that Mrs. Adeosun has used the alleged 'fake' certificate to clinch high profile jobs in Nigeria illegally, ranging from her service as a managing director with Quo Vadis Partnerships, Commissioner for Finance with the Ogun State Government and currently serving as Minister of Finance with the Federal government.

The alleged forgery is also reported to be a tool being used by the National Assembly to 'blackmail' Mrs. Adeosun to release funds to the legislative arm of government, the National Assembly having discovered the forgery during her screening/confirmation exercise as finance minister in 2015.

According to an official statement of the NYSC as regards the forgery scandal, the scheme purportedly stated that there is evidence that the embattled minister had indeed applied for an exemption certificate and promised to investigate the alleged forged exemption certificate. The said NYSC statement confirms to a reasonable degree the allegations of forgery, as the corps would have made bold to state authoritatively that it issued the said exemption certificate, if that was the case, without requiring further investigations, since the corps is deemed to have records of all its issuance of exemption certificates.

We are convinced, beyond reasonable doubt that the NYSC could not have issued an exemption certificate to Mrs. Adeosun who does not fall within the category of those classified for exemption under the NYSC Act. According to Section 2 (2) of the Act:

"Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (1) of this section, with effect from 1st August, 1985, a person shall not be called upon to serve in the service corps if: at the date of his graduation or obtaining his diploma or other professional qualification -

1. *He is over the age of thirty*
2. *He has served in the armed forces of the federation or the Nigeria Police Force for a period of more than nine months.*
3. *He is a staff of any of the following, that is;*
 - I. *The Nigerian Security organization*
 - II. *The State Security Service*
 - III. *The National Intelligence Agency*
 - IV. *The Defence Intelligence Agency*
4. *He has been conferred with any National Honour.*


It is on the basis of the above that we are asking that you use your good office to facilitate an urgent and thorough investigation into the said allegations and ensure due prosecution of the said Minister, the State Security Services officers responsible for vetting of her certificate and Members of the Parliament accused of extorting her situation for budgetary favours, in accordance with the provisions of the law. The requested action is pertinent to serve as deterrent to future law breakers, especially amongst the elite and politically exposed persons.

In a situation where acknowledgement or response is not received from your office within 2 weeks of the receipt of this petition, this organization will be left with no option than institute a legal action to compel action in accordance the law.

We look forward to your usual prompt response and action.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,


Oluwafemi Suraju
Chairman