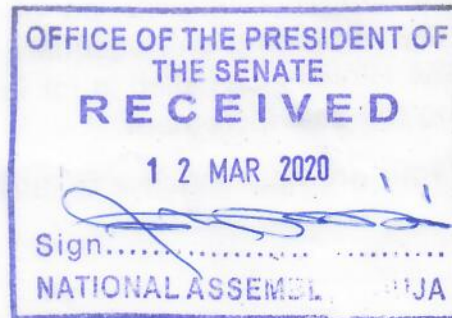




25th February 2020

The President of the Senate
National Assembly
Three Arms Zone
Abuja



Dear Sir

DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE PROBE

The above subject matter refers.

On the 13th June 2015, PremiumTimes¹ published during a seminar hosted in Beijing on African digitization, the then Director-General of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Sola Omole stated that NTA requires \$15 million to complete its digitization programme and N6 billion for total restructuring across Nigeria. It was also conveyed that about 4 African countries had made the shift from analogue to digital and it was stated that many African countries including Nigeria would not make the June 17th deadline as of 2015.

Business Day² on the 10th February 2020 published a report titled, "NTA to compete with CNN, with \$500m investment, says Lai Mohammed". According to the report, it was stated by the Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, that for Nigerian Television Authority to compete with international media, including the Cable News Network (CNN) it's the supervising ministry would have to secure a loan of \$500m for its NTA's upgrade. It was reported that 17th June deadline is slated for the switchover from analogue to digital equipment. It was also reported that the Minister stated the deadline and the amount while defending the \$500 Million loan.

Based on the above-relayed reports, in 2015, NTA stated that it required \$15 Million and N6Billion for the restructuring of NTA and in 2020, the same agency states that it will do that same switchover from analogue to digital for the lump sum of \$600 Million. Bearing in mind that NTA is supervised by the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, questions should be asked on the sudden multiplication of the amount for the switch over, since it is the same agency. It is quite alarming that the same agency run by the same ministry and same minister experienced a change in the required amount between 2015 and 2020.

¹ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/204076-new-director-generals-named-radio-nigeria-nan-nta-noa-nbc-von.html> published on the 13th June 2015

² <https://businessday.ng/news/article/nta-to-compete-with-cnn-with-500m-investment-says-lai-mohammed/> published on the 10th February 2020

In line with our stand as an organization with the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards.

We believe the sudden multiplication of the slated amount panned out for the project is worthy of probing and adequate scrutiny hence, this petition. We hereby demand that the Minister be called in for immediate probe with the aim of justifying and juxtaposing the said increment.

We anticipate your prompt response to our demand.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman

CC: The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
Aso Villa
Abuja