



PRESS STATEMENT

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Beyond Publishing List of Looters, Take Urgent Steps To Save Anti-Corruption Crusade From Credibility Crisis, CHRICED Tells FG

The Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED) calls on the Federal Government to take urgent steps to address the growing disenchantment, and credibility crisis threatening the effectiveness of the ongoing anti-corruption crusade. This call becomes necessary against the background of the directive of the government to relevant agencies that a list of treasury looters be published. While the naming and shaming of looters may get some traction for the recovery of monies stolen from the common wealth, it is our considered view that the much more urgent task is for President Muhammadu Buhari to move quickly to restore flagging confidence in the credibility of his anti-corruption war, by taking action on a number of test cases, especially those involving his aides and appointees.

The administration must project the force of moral example by immediately ending the strange dithering on the cases involving the suspended Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir David Lawal, and the Director-General of the Nigeria Intelligence Agency, Ayo Oke, whose cases have been investigated by a Presidential Committee. For the umpteenth time, CHRICED must make it clear that it is no longer tenable that months after the report of that committee was submitted, the President is yet to take action on it, thereby exposing the anti-corruption programme to ridicule and a credibility crisis.

Similarly, CHRICED in the interest of the Nigerian people, is also calling on the Buhari administration to stop afflicting blows to the credibility of its anti-corruption efforts by taking actions, which call its commitment to the signature issue to question. The need to heed this call is well exemplified by the shocking report that the Nigerian government has secretly recalled, and reinstated the fugitive former Chairman of the Presidential Task Team on Pension Reform, Abdurashheed Maina, who is currently standing trial in absentia for fraud allegations. How can the government possibly explain to citizens, who are keen on backing its anti-corruption war that a wanted man standing trial has to be suddenly reinstated, even when the anti-graft agencies have remained on his trail?

All of these point to the fact that President Buhari and his team, urgently need to look inwards, and purge themselves of tendencies that could derail the modest gains that have been recorded on the anti-corruption front. Beyond routine approaches like the publication of the names of looters therefore, the administration must refocus, and rededicate itself to the anti-corruption effort through strategies that would galvanize support for such efforts at the grassroots. It is in the interest of the Nigerian people that current anti-corruption efforts succeed. That can only happen if those at the forefront of the crusade against corruption leads by the force of moral example.

Allegations against the IGP, Abba Kyari, Chairman of Police Service Commission, etc.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Signed:

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Executive Director