

ABOUT THE GATE ANNUAL

The GATE is a publication of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL). It is a summative report of the proceedings of CACOL's Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project. The GATE project which started since the third quarter of 2018, is designed to educate the members of the grassroots on the typology of corruption, how to identify, track, report and prosecute policies, projects, programmes and promises made by political actors during campaign and after they might have assumed office.

CACOL's first year implementation of the Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project that took place between September 2018 to September 2019, moved toward a new approach adopted by the Center leading to greater sensitization of the people about the evils of corruption and their role in the nation's political process with detailed breakdowns of activities within the first year documented in "The Gate Quarterly Report"

The dedication and commitment so far exhibited by participants and the C-GATEs units remain a source of inspiration in the implementation of the project year two in a bid to shift the grassroots anti-corruption paradigm in all nooks and crannies of the two states being covered.



THE GRASSROOTS ANTI-CORRUPTION PARADIGM SHIFT

THE GATE

YEAR - ONE

Absolute NO to CORRUPTION!

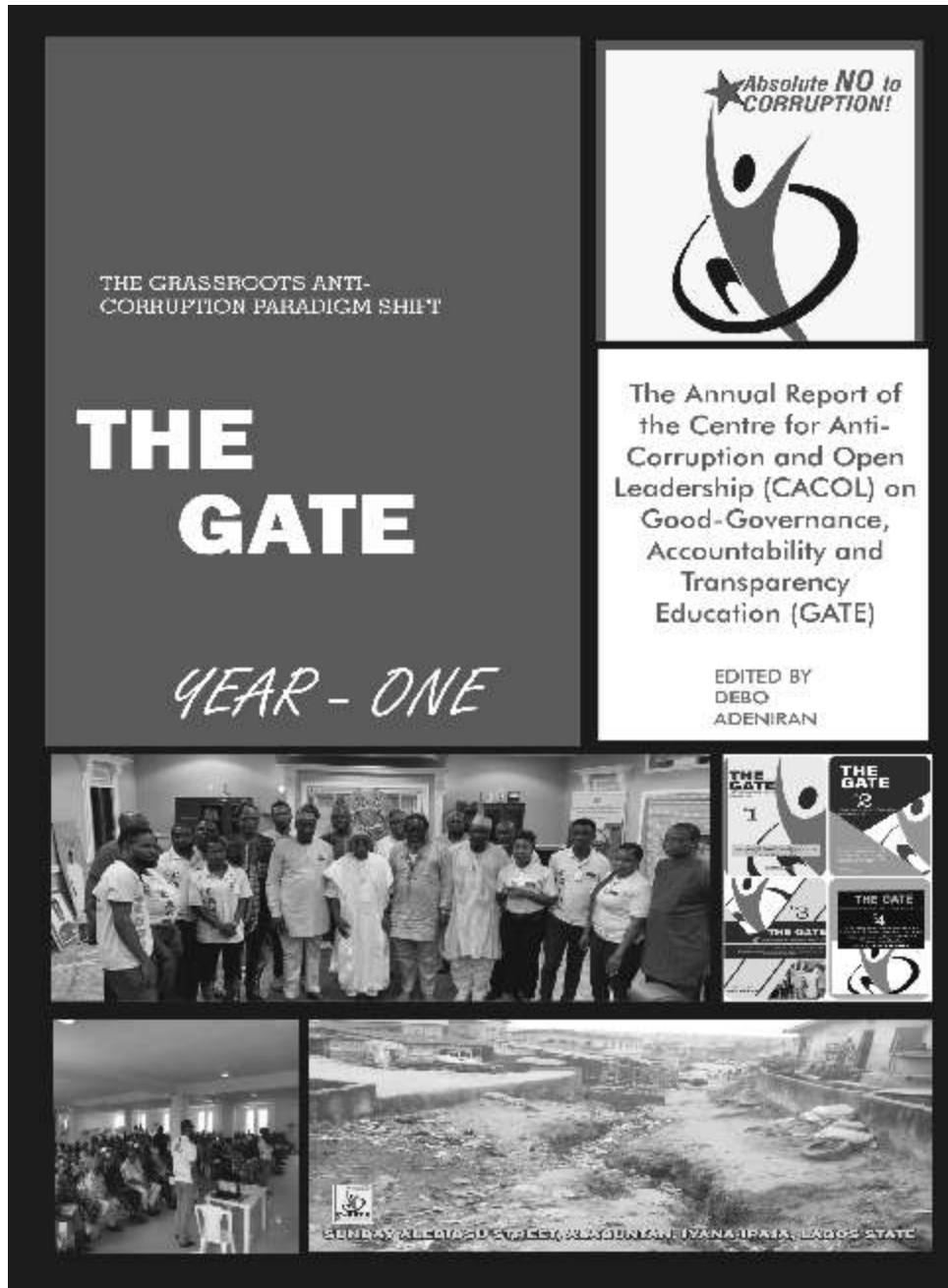


The Annual Report of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) on Good-Governance, Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE)

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**RUN-DOWN OF CACOL'S GATE PROJECT
YEAR-ONE
(September 3rd, 2018 - September 2nd, 2019)**

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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

PROJECT BACKGROUND

QUARTER 1 (ONE) OF CACOL-GATE

SYNOPSIS OF THE FIRST QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR C-GATE

TIDBITS OF EVENTS WITHIN THE FIRST QUARTER

QUARTER 2 (TWO) OF CACOL-GATE

SYNOPSIS OF THE SECOND QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR C-GATE

TIDBITS OF EVENTS WITHIN THE SECOND QUARTER

QUARTER 3 (THREE) OF CACOL-GATE

SYNOPSIS OF THE THIRD QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR C-GATE

TITBITS OF EVENTS WITHIN THE THIRD QUARTER

4TH QUARTER REPORT OF THE GATE

WHAT IS NEXT?

INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership's project on Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Education (C-GATE) is designed to educate the grassroots on how to track the policies, programmes and promises made by candidates of different political parties during the electioneering period. For decades, our politicians have been notorious for making failed promises to the electorate. They have actually elevated making fake promises to an art comparable to the antics of conmen. The purpose of this project is to remind such politicians about their promises in future after they may have assumed office and to discourage their penchant for making fake promises to the electorate. Since the third quarter of 2018, CACOL began a renewed offensive against this obvious short-changing of the electorate in whom sovereignty actually resides and take the fight against grand corruption in Nigeria to a more decisive stage. The tools for this new approach in making our people to retain the lever of power are based on strenuous but effective education on analyzing campaign promises and sifting genuine promises from phony ones and how to track the promises of politicians, as well as report corruption practices by public office holders.

With CACOL's first quarter implementation of the Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project that took place between September and December 2018, came a new approach adopted by the Center leading to greater sensitization of the people about the evils of corruption and their role in the nation's political process. For now, implementation of the project is restricted to local government areas in Lagos and Osun states. Already, units of Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Educators (GATEs) have been established in all the local council areas of both states. The anti-graft organization has also used the opportunity of executing the project to reach out to the authorities and mobilized leaders of the community development councils/associations (CDCs and CDAs) in the various local council areas. The responses of representatives of these CDCs and CDAs during the GATE workshops and public lectures held in both states were very enthusiastic. Members of GATEs units have also been trained on how to identify and report corrupt acts by public office holders. Each of those who have already undergone

training on how to track the promises of politicians and report corrupt acts have also been mandated to recruit at least 10 additional members from their various communities. The Internet platforms for regular communication with members of the GATEs units have since been created at CACOL's headquarters while efforts are being intensified to ensure better representation by state and local government officers in future activities of the GATE project.

At every opportunity he had to interface with the public, the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Comrade Debo Adeniran in using advocacy and public interaction to deal with the ravaging effects of anti-graft war in the cities and rural communities of Lagos and Osun States, clearly demonstrated how members of the public could actually take ownership of the anti-graft war in the fiery speeches he delivered during various activities that took place in the last quarter of the year. This is because they remain the direct victims of grand corruption being perpetrated by the ruling elites; and as the maxim goes, 'those who benefit in creating problems are not likely to be a solution to same problem'. The CACOL boss did not mince words at the workshop and public lecture sessions where he unambiguously stated that the people must be involved in the fight against corruption before it could succeed. He insisted that since the fight against corruption had taken an elitist approach over the years and this approach had not produced the desired result, CACOL had seen the need to approach the grassroots as a major partner in the fight.

Various facilitators in both states who spoke during these activities also threw their weight behind the new approach adopted by CACOL in the prosecution of the anti-corruption war. At the various events organized, they all condemned the wide inequality between the affluent and the grassroots in Nigeria and concluded that it is only when the people resist all instruments of oppression and marginalization directed at them that they could actually change the situation. They were unanimous in proffering strategies and tactics that could be applied to reverse the ugly situation which includes: public enlightenment, engagement of the media and collaboration with stakeholders; expansion of social consciousness and empowerment that makes the people more steadfast and united in securing a better life.

There are positive signals that units of CACOL-GATEs that are being built in all the local government areas of Lagos and Osun States would serve as a fresh impetus in the anti-graft war as the grassroots participants have also been adequately educated on how to identify and report corruption. This is despite the noticeable reluctance of public office holders in both Lagos and Osun states to participate at the beginning of the project -despite invitations and reminder letters sent to them- which may be a signpost of how they resent GATE or any other anti-corruption crusade for fear of backlash. The C-GATE National Coordinator urged participants at the various workshops and public lectures that were organized as part of the implementation of the GATE project, to recruit and educate more members on how policies, programmes, projects, promises and pledges made by politicians during the electioneering period could be tracked for the purpose of reminding them when they assume office. He also discouraged the grassroots against selling their votes so that they would maintain the moral authority to ask relevant questions directed at elected or even appointed public office holders in future. He solicited for the support of the media as veritable partners in progress in the Nigerian project.

As a sign of symbiotic appreciation of issues at hand, Comrade Adeniran's speeches were received with accolades by the various speakers, resource persons, intellectuals, journalists and the audience at all the events organized for the initial phase of the GATE project thereby indicating that the people are ready to forge a partnership with CACOL in the fight against corruption. This is just as many of the CDA's and CDC's officers recounted their experiences with the political class within their local levels of governance. He further reminded participants at the various workshops and public lectures on the implementation of the GATE project to recruit and educate more members on how policies, programmes, projects, promises and pledges made by politicians during the electioneering period could be synchronized and sifted by separating empty promises that are not realistic from genuine ones and best way of tracking the real promises for the purpose of reminding them of their fulfillment when they assume office. He further discouraged the grassroots against selling their votes so that they would maintain the moral authority to ask relevant questions directed at elected or even appointed public office holders in future.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Background to the C-GATE Project: - The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, having traced causes of all socioeconomic and political problems plaguing the Nigerian state today to the endemic corruption by and among leadership of various socio-political institutions in Nigeria and their collaborators. Corruption as evidenced in all dishonest behaviours like stealing, oppression, favouritism, nepotism, embezzlement, misappropriation, cheating etc., has become an average while average Nigerians are unjustly wealthy beyond their legitimate earnings.



Consequently, access to basic necessities like: food, water, health-care, road, education, housing, power/energy, transportation, etc., remain elusive to the average Nigerian. The essence of the C-GATE Project is to create a nexus between political aspirants, candidates, state actors and electorate to facilitate the extraction of promises and their implementations beyond 2019 general elections.

- Project Scope – It is fashioned towards evolving teams of at least, 10 volunteers called Good-Governance, Accountability and Transparency Educators (GATEs) in all the Local Government Areas of Lagos and Osun states. They would be the community educators, monitors and trackers of promises, policies and activities of political actors.

(a) States Covered

9

- Lagos state: 57 Local Government Areas
- Osun state: 69 Local Government Areas

(b) Key partners in civil society and Media

Chairmen, Councillors and officials of Local Government Areas, Community Development Associations, Civil Society Network Against Corruption (CSNAC), Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), available print and electronic media like, African Independent Television (AIT) TV Continental (TVC), Murhi International Television (MITV), Galaxy Television, The Punch, The Sun, The Guardian and New Telegraph Newspapers

Political parties to be engaged and tracked: - All contesting political parties and elected officials in both states

Methodology: The project will work at two broad levels:

- Ø Consultative Workshops – This is a one-day event that would comprise of participants, drawn from all the LGAs in Lagos and Osun states. The workshop is essentially to involve the identified stakeholders from the point of inauguration of the project; and for exploratory purposes on modalities and implementation while it was to serve as a mobilization platform for the public lectures
- Ø Public Lectures – A one-day event with at least 300 participants from all the LGAs in both states. It served, basically as a forum for enlightenment of a large mass of grassroots people where erudite resource persons were expected to break down the nitty-gritty of the anti-corruption drive and the role of the citizenry.
- Ø Theme: CURBING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA'S POLITICAL PROCESSES: ESTABLISHING A GRASSROOTS PARADIGM IN GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY
- Ø Campaigns and Advocacy – The campaigns and advocacy

10

involved documentaries, jingles, live interviews on radio with political actors and electorate, electronic, social and print media enlightenment on the evils of corruption and the role of the citizens, all in the easily understood communication means peculiar to each state.

v CORE OBJECTIVES

- A. To enable participants through the process of the project, benefit new and increased awareness on their roles in curbing corruption, encourage accountability and imbibe the ideas of transparency in governance which could be easily internalized and cascaded to the broader mass of the people, having been equipped with tools, necessary information and other methodologies of fighting corruption
- B. To enable C-GATE cadres track promises made by the political party, aspirants/candidates and their implementation when elected

v Tracking Methodology

The train cam pro deliv pro actor thro (e.g. Twit etc.), and



activities of GATEs which were very much on ground for monitoring of electoral promises, policies and their implementation

participants were ed on how to track paigns, electoral mises, etc., and ery of such mises by political s after elections ough Social Media F a c e b o o k , ter, Instagram, traditional Media through the

for monitoring of

- v Framework for creating vertical synergies at national, state and local levels

CACOL has membership and organized structures across Nigeria, and it synergizes with other civil society organizations and stakeholders at the local, state and national levels

Although the grant approved coverage area for the GATE project was supposed to be 30 local council areas in each of the two states, the leadership of CACOL used its own initiative to expand it to the 57 in Lagos and 69 in Osun.

v local governments of focus/attention

a. Lagos state:

1. Amuwo-Odofin Local Government
2. Badagry West Local Council Development Area
3. Coker / Aguda Local Council Development Area
4. Ejigbo Local Council Development Area
5. Mosan-Okunola Local Council Development Area
6. Mushin Local government
7. Ojo Local Government
8. Ojodu Local Council Development Area
9. Ojokoro Local Council development Area
10. Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area
11. Oshodi / Isolo Local Government
12. Agbado / Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area
13. Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area
14. Agege Local Government
15. Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government
16. Alimosho Local Government
17. Apapa Local Government
18. Badagry Local Government
19. Apapa-Iganmu Local Council Development Area
20. Bariga Local Council Development Area
21. Egbe - Idimu Local Council Development Area
22. E p e L o c a l Government

23. Eredo Local Council Development Area
24. Eti-Osa East Local Council Development Area
25. Eti-Osa Local Government
26. Iba Local Council Development Area
27. Ibeju Lekki Local Government
28. Ibogbo / Bayeku Local Council Development Area
29. Ifako-Ijaye Local Government
30. Ifelodun Local Council Development Area
31. Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area
32. Ijede Local Council Development Area
33. Ikeja local Government Area
34. Ikorodu Local Government
35. Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area
36. Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area
37. Ikosi / Ejinrin Local Council Development Area
38. Imota Local Council Development Area
39. Iru - Victoria Island Local Council Development Area
40. Isolo Local Council development Area
41. Itire-Ikate Local Council Development Area
42. Kosofe Local Government
43. Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area
44. Lagos Mainland Local Government
45. Lekki Local Council Development Area
46. Odi-Olowo / Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area
47. Olorunda Local Council Development Area
48. Oriade Local Council development Area
49. Orile - Agege Local Council Development Area
50. Oto-Awori Local Council Development Area
51. Somolu Local Government
52. Surulere Local Government
53. Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area
54. Ikosnsheri Local Council Development Area
55. Ikoyi - Obalende Local Council Development Area
56. Lagos Island Local Government
57. Yaba Local Council Development Area

- b. Osun state:**
1. Atakunmosa East
 2. Atakunmosa East Central
 3. Atakunmosa West
 4. Atakunmosa West Central
 5. Ayedaade
 6. Ayedaade South LCDA
 7. Ayedire South LCDA
 8. Ayedire
 9. Boluwaduro
 10. Boluwaduro East LCDA
 11. Boripe
 12. Boripe North LCDA
 13. Ede East LCDA
 14. Ede North
 15. Ede South
 16. Egbedore South LCDA
 17. Egbedore
 18. Ejigbo
 19. Ejigbo South LCDA
 20. Ejigbo West LCDA
 21. Ife Central
 22. Ife Central West LCDA
 23. Ife East
 24. Ife North
 25. Ife North Central LCDA
 26. Ife North West LCDA
 27. Ife Ooye LCDA
 28. Ife South
 29. Ife South West
 30. Ifedayo
 31. Ifelodun
 32. Ifelodun North LCDA
 33. Ila

34. Ila Central LCDA
35. Ilesa East
36. Ilesa North East LCDA
37. Ilesa West
38. Ilesa West Central LCDA
39. Irepodun
40. Irepodun South LCDA
41. Irewole
42. Irewole North East LCDA
43. Isokan
44. Isokan South LCDA
45. Iwo
46. Iwo West LCDA
47. Iwo East LCDA
48. Obokun
49. Obokun East LCDA
50. Odo Otin
51. Odo Otin South LCDA
52. Odo Otin North LCDA
53. Ola Oluwa
54. Olorunda
55. Olorunda North LCDA
56. Oriade
57. Oriade South LCDA
58. Orolu
59. Osogbo
60. Osogbo South LCDA
61. Osogbo West LCDA
62. Ife North Area Council
63. Ede North Area Council
64. Ifelodun North Area Council
65. Egbedore Area Council
66. Orolu Area Council

67. Olorunda Area Council
68. Ola Oluwa South East LCDA
69. Ifedayo Area Council



SYNOPSIS OF THE FIRST QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR C-GATE

For decades, Nigerian politicians have been notorious for their failed promises to the electorate. CACOL's Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project was designed to educate the grassroots on how to track the policies, programmes and promises made by political contestants during the electioneering period.

The purpose of the project was to remind such politicians about their promises in future after they may have assumed office. Implementation of the project was restricted to local government areas in Lagos and Osun states.

Implementation of the GATE project successfully took off on September 3, 2018 with a CACOL project meeting held at the headquarters of the Centre. The Executive Chairman of CACOL Mr Debo Adeniran presided over the meeting.

All Coordinators and other senior officers of the Centre were in attendance at the meeting. Mr Adeniran announced that the grant for the project which stood at N52million was from McArthur Foundation but was routed through Yar'Adua Foundation adding that it was supposed to last for two years.

He further explained that it was a public enlightenment project dedicated to the pursuit of anti-corruption, accountability and transparency in governance goals for Lagos and Osun states.

The CACOL boss further announced that the Coordinator For Research And Documentation (CRD) Mr Okechukwu Ndiribe, Research and Documentation Officer, Mr Jolomi Fenemigho and Acting Project Implementation Officer, Mr Ayobamidele Adegboye were to track all political parties and their manifestoes in Lagos and Osun states. He further stated that key partners that have to be contacted in the execution of the project include local government chairmen, community development association leaders and the media.

He threw more light on the aims and objectives of the project to include:

Empowering participants to curb corruption and track promises made by politicians during the campaign period for the 2019 general elections; Tracking the activities of politicians in both states through the media and C-GATE units.

He further explained that the project was designed to ensure that politicians should be made to be definite and specific when they make promises to the electorate. He also instructed that each letter delivered in respect of the project must be acknowledged and filed. He explained that most of the events that will be organized for the project would last for only one day. He further stated that by September 4th, 2019, the complete report for the first year should be ready.

He also explained that the first instalment of the fund would be used for the first quarter of the project which was scheduled to last from September 3, 2018 to December 2, 2018. He further stated that a report had to be written about the meeting. He explained that the report should explain how the project's team members became better informed about the project. He also stated that media coverage of the project's activities must be attached in the report. He announced the theme for the project as: "Curbing Corruption in Nigeria's Political Processes: Establishing a Grassroots Paradigm in Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency." More GATE project meetings were held on September 8, 14 and 20, 2018.

The first step taken towards execution of the project was the media parley which took place in Lagos on September 22, 2018.

At the parley with media practitioners, Mr Adeniran solicited for the support of journalists. He seized the opportunity to explain the different types of corruption prevailing in Nigeria. He identified them as grand, petty, pseudo and true. He enjoined the media to participate in intensifying the anti-graft war so that Nigerians could enjoy the dividends of democracy which they had been denied due to looting of public funds by public office holders.

CACOL's Coordinator For Media and Publications, Mr Adegboye

Otunuga, and Research/Documentation, Mr Okechukwu Ndiribe also solicited for the cooperation of the media in their short contributions. The floor was thrown open to journalists for questions and answers. Journalists who attended the occasion asked germane questions while some made contributions that enriched the discussion.

In addition to the media parley, two consultative workshops and public lectures were held in Lagos and Osun states as part of activities of the first quarter.

Throughout the first quarter of the project's implementation, the Mr Adeniran and various resource persons who participated made it clear in their speeches that the people must be involved in the fight against corruption before it could succeed. They insisted that since the fight against corruption had taken an elitist approach over the years without much to show for it, CACOL's new strategy of approaching the grassroots as a major partner in the fight was timely.

Various speakers expressed regret over the manner in which corrupt public office holders lived in affluence while the people lived below poverty line. Participants also condemned public office holders over corrupt enrichment which inevitably pauperized the people.

It was also agreed that some of the measures that could be taken to reverse the situation were as follows: public enlightenment; engagement with the media; collaboration with stakeholders and empowerment that makes the people more steadfast and united in securing a better life.

Adeniran urged participants at the various workshops and public lectures that were organized as part of the implementation of the GATE project to recruit and educate more members. The CACOL leadership's commitment to lead the battle of taking the anti-graft war to the cities and rural communities of Lagos and Osun States was clearly demonstrated in the level of mobilization which characterized all the activities that took place during first quarter of the project.

The CACOL boss and other resource persons also discouraged the grassroots against selling their votes in the forthcoming general elections. CACOL also used the opportunity of executing the project to reach out to state actors and leaders of the community development areas (CDAs) in the various local councils in both states.

The enthusiasm exhibited towards the project by many participants in the various workshops and lectures held in both states during the quarter indicated that the people were ready to forge a partnership with CACOL in the fight against corruption. There were signals that the emerging CACOL Good Governance Accountability And Transparency Education (C-GATEs) units in Lagos and Osun States would serve as fresh impetus in the anti-graft war since the grassroots participants had been educated on how to identify and expose corruption. CACOL's headquarters has already created internet platforms for regular communication with members of C-GATE units. Nevertheless, the reluctance of public office holders in both Lagos and Osun states to participate in the initial phase of the project was an early signpost of their attitude towards C-GATE. The first quarter ended on December 2, 2018

TIDBITS OF EVENTS WITHIN THE FIRST QUARTER

CACOL's MEDIA PARLEY HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

The registration of participants commenced as scheduled with many of the invited community and local council officials conspicuously absent without notice. After the introduction and opening remarks, the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Comrade Debo Adeniran, made a presentation on, “*Introduction to Dynamics of Corruption*” by graphically depicting the various ways through which corruption had permeated the lives of Nigerians. He earlier-on gave a comprehensive definition on corruption, having categorized it into true and pseudo corruption. He also noted that we actually need to educate the masses more since many do not even recognize much of the government's activities that constitute corruption. He therefore insisted that for any fight against corruption to make meaning to such over-exploited and battered people, there must be a redefinition of what constitutes governance and its relationship to their individual lives first, before they could now begin to consider participating in the fight against corruption.

The CACOL leader also cited how our leaders, at various times, had lived far above their means. Also, the CACOL boss reiterated how the action of the organization has been guided by logic as he insisted that whether you hate or love President Muhammadu Buhari's administration; it had fought corruption more than any of his predecessors as could be deduced from the number of trials and convictions recorded. He noted that even though any of the Presidential candidates may have a better and more holistic template to fight corruption, this would only become possible if he won the then forthcoming election and demonstrates practical commitment to the anti-corruption agenda.

He explained that his position was informed by the fact that many notable activists had acquired political power in many states of the federation in one capacity or the other, only for them to jettison the same ideals they had supposedly preached in the past. He therefore stated that irrespective of

what is being alluded to, CACOL would only be guided by its commitment to the anti-Corruption war; protection of human rights in general and the defence of women's rights in particular.

The CACOL boss also remarked that the decision to approach the authorities of the 20 local government areas and 37 local council development councils was deliberate so as not to leave any area uncovered, even though the resources available may not have been sufficient for the assignment. He recalled how many visits and meetings were held with the leadership of most local councils in Lagos to ensure that they were properly briefed within the same period. He directed the relevant CACOL staff to ensure that all the relevant records are properly documented for future reference and subsequent actions. He expressed dismay as to how and why local council political office holders- that claim to be closer to the people- would shun an opportunity to participate in a grassroots programme where their officers could have been trained on the methodology for tracking electoral promises and sifting genuine from the fake promises and programmes. The exercise would also have provided an opportunity for monitoring the delivery of the programmes and projects of political office contestants after they may have been elected. He maintained that CACOL would not capitulate to their cold attitude towards the GATE project as the slogan remained: **Absolute No To Corruption.**

He maintained that the people want a government that provides sound education, pipe-borne water and employment, economic and social protection. He said the people would like to be governed by just laws. All these remain the major reason why governments exist in order to fulfill their social contract with the governed. He noted that over N16b had so far been recovered by President Buhari' since he came to power in 2015. He observed that the fight against corruption had remained too elitist as the people were hardly involved in its prosecution. This informed why CACOL had taken up the effort of getting the ordinary Nigerians-who are the primary victims of corruption- to fully own and control the fight against corruption by teaching it to the local people, students, teachers and others in order to make it a national campaign with a view to finally shaming and extirpating the corrosive effect of corruption from our land.

There were contributions by the resource persons. Adeola Soetan, a former students' union President at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) and a human rights activist, opined that without reducing poverty in the land, the fight against corruption, as laudable as it sounds, may not achieve much. He recalled how his many trips to Libya under the late Col. Muammar Gadhafi showed him how a people could be made contented by the provision of social amenities by their government. He stated how the roads were always clean and very motorable and other basic things of life provided with unemployed persons adequately catered for. He explained that education for Libyans both at home and abroad was fully supported and encouraged by the state. Homelessness was almost non-existent, while every citizen was encouraged to contribute to national development, one way or the other. He contrast that with Nigeria's scenario where life is so miserable and education is now virtually priced out of the reach of the common people and illustrated this by citing as example what he and his wife have to pay as school fees for each of their children. He said what he currently pays as school fees for each of his kids in elementary school was much more than the entire fees he paid for his over five year university education. He asked rhetorically: Why won't the temptation for corruption exists for the average Nigerian family with a minimum wage that is barely enough to sustain only one person?

The Executive Director of CSNAC, an anti-corruption group, Comrade Olanrewaju Suraju remarked that the fight against corruption could not be won in a single day. He noted that in his own recent trips to Italian cities, he saw places that were ghettos comparable to Ajegunle or Amukoko and a lot of people there survived by eking out a living. He however remarked that despite this situation, the people hardly insulted since their belief was that the occupier of that office was only there temporarily. He therefore suggested that it would do the country a lot of good to separate the office from its occupier. He also noted that we actually need to educate the masses more since many do not even recognize much of the government's activities that constitute corruption.

Dr. Dele Seteolu of the Political Science Department of Lagos State University (LASU) referred to the grassroots as a nebulous terminology as it connotes a captured terrain or a people whose fortune has so much nosedived over time that they remain most

become pawns in the chessboard of power since what now preoccupies their minds is survival by any means possible.

He therefore insisted that for any fight against corruption to make meaning to such over-exploited and battered people, there must be a redefinition of what constitutes governance and its relationship to their individual lives first, before they could now begin to consider participating in the fight against corruption. He recalled that while he was growing up, some of the grassroots people became the core of the middle class that later occupied the corridors of power.

After his elucidating presentation, participants began a group discussion session which focused on Identifying acts that constitute corruption.

CACOL's CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP HELD IN LAGOS ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

RESOURCE PERSONS: -

- Mr. Debo Adeniran, CACOL'S Executive Chairman
- Comrade Adeola Soetan of YVD
- Olanrewaju Suraj – CISNAC
- Dr. Dele Seteolu – Department of Political Science, (Lagos State University, LASU)

The event kicked off with the introduction of the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Comrade Debo Adeniran by the Master of Ceremony (M/C) *T. Ikenna Aghagbobi* after which Comrade Adeniran invited the Centre's three (3) coordinating staff to join him at the high table while he asked others present to take turns in introducing themselves. Thereafter, he made a presentation on, **“Introduction to Dynamics of Corruption”** by graphically depicting the various ways through - *GOOD-GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY EDUCATION* - which corruption had permeated the lives of Nigerians. He earlier on gave a comprehensive definition on corruption, having categorized it into true and pseudo corruption. The CACOL leader also cited how our leaders, at various

times, had lived far above their means. He gave the example of former President Olusegun Obasanjo who he recalled, earned less than, N3mn (Three million Naira) per month while in office. He further said that even if Obasanjo had saved his entire salary for 50 years, he would be worth, less than three billion Naira, N3bn. However Obasanjo presently owns a university that should be worth more than thirty N30b and a Presidential Library for which he sought public donations while in office, contrary to the constitutional and statutory provisions. The former President also owns stocks and properties worth billions of Naira all over the country.

Also, the CACOL boss noted how the action of the organization has been guided by logic as he insisted that whether you hate or love President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, it had fought corruption more than any of his predecessors as could be deduced from the number of trials and convictions recorded. He pointed out that the elitist approach had been inadequate in holistically stamping out the menace from the nation. He further explained that CACOL had seen the need to explore the grassroots approach as a major bulwark against entrenched agents of corruption. He used the opportunity to shed more light on the Good- Governance, Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project. He also solicited for media support during the implementation of the project. He further explained the different types of corruption that exist: from grand to petty, pseudo to political and true. He enjoined the media to participate in intensifying the anti-graft war so that Nigerians could enjoy the dividends of democracy which they have been denied due to looting of public funds by political office holders.

The CACOL boss later called on the organization's Coordinator for Media and Publications (CMP) Mr. Adegboyega Otunuga and the Coordinator For Research and Documentation (CRD), Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe to make some remarks. Both Coordinators also solicited for the cooperation of the media in their short contributions. The floor was thrown open for questions and answers. Journalists who attended the occasion asked germane questions while some made contributions that enriched the discussion. The event was later brought to an end with the Coordinator, Administration and Programs (CAP), Ms Oluwasikemi Awodele giving a vote of thanks after

reminding journalists about the commencement date for the implementation of the GATE project.

CACOL'S PUBLIC LECTURE HELD IN LAGOS ON 17th OCTOBER, 2018

THEME: - 'Curbing Corruption in Nigeria's Political Processes, Establishing A Grassroots Paradigm in Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency...

The opening remarks were made by CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation (CRD), Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe who stated that during the just concluded presidential primaries of a major political party, one of the contestants was alleged to have bribed each delegate with \$5000. He also mentioned that during the last governorship election in Osun state, there were reports of widespread buying and selling of votes. He condemned these incidents of corruption in the nation's political process and mentioned that CACOL had set for itself the task of taking the anti-corruption war to the grassroots. He explained that the purpose of CACOL's Good Governance, Accountability And Transparency Education (CGATE) project was to train and establish Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Educators (GATEs) units in the various local government areas to monitor and track promises, pledges, programmes, policies and manifestoes presented by politicians to the people during the period of campaigns.

In his own remarks at the event Comrade Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman of CACOL, began his contribution by defining corruption and its various manifestations in the society. He identified different types of the malaise to include kleptomania or sadistic corruption and Gluttonic or social corruption. Others were economic or incidental corruption, attitudinal or reactive corruption, true and pseudo corruption. He highlighted various causes of corruption as follows: Prevalence of weak governmental institutions; discriminatory applications of rules and the administration of Justice System; the effects of public perception; the nature

of the economy and undue secrecy in governmental affairs. He emphasized how they utilized monopoly to deepen exploitation of the people and concluded that it is only when the masses resist all weapons of oppression and marginalization that they could actually change the situation. Consequently, he itemized avenues through which the society could reverse the ugly trend as follows: public enlightenment; engagement of the media and collaboration with stakeholders; expansion of social consciousness and empowerment that makes the people more steadfast and united in securing a good life.

On his own part, Mr Femi Babafemi, Editor, Saturday Sun and former spokesman for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said both journalists and EFCC operatives required use of investigation to do their work. He stated further that the people had an important role to play in the anti-graft war. In his own words, “Even if we have 1001 anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria, corruption cannot be defeated without involving the people.” He advised on the need for the masses to approach the different tiers of government and enquire about budget implementation. “If you find out that government officials are not implementing the budget in your local government area or community, contact civil society groups” he said. He explained that a single person could not perpetrate corruption without conspiring with others.

Said he, “Corrupt activities usually involve conspiracy between different people at different stages; what is needed is to get one individual who would be a whistleblower among those involved. Whenever we observe corrupt acts among public office holders, we must raise alarm. We must not keep quiet.” He further advised participants at the public lecture that “If you know a politician who was an ordinary person that was managing to eke out a living but became suddenly wealthy after he got involved in politics, probe that individual so that he doesn't rob you and your community of what belongs to your people”. The CACOL Chairman went ahead to emphasize the need for the people to collectively combat corruption at the grassroots through what he called, 'mekunnu koya' in Yoruba which meant that 'ordinary Nigerians should resist oppression'. He enumerated how the ruling class perpetuated an affluent lifestyle among themselves and generations unborn while the people

live below poverty line.

In his own remarks at the occasion, a former President of the Students Union of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Adeola Soetan said the fastest growing business in Nigeria was politics. According to him, “If somebody invests in politics he has hit a jackpot. Corruption is also a big business in Nigeria. He narrated how unlike the second Republic when a Political Party like Chief Obafemi Awolow's Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) had 4 (four) Cardinal programmes through which they rallied the electorate around their party, i.e. which included free health, free education, full employment and integrated rural development.” He lamented that nowadays, Politicians would come to a campaign venue with hired musicians who would sing and the masses would come and dance away their sorrows. “The politician may not promise anything before winning election. Even if he promises, we don't track him in most cases” he said. He explained the purpose for CACOL's C-GATE project by saying that “Now is the time we should track their promises. As we are about to enter a new year, we could write to the government from our various communities and mention a project we want the government to execute for us. We can ask the government to put our request in their budget.”

On her own part, Mrs. Prudence Abbas, who represented the Chairman of Community Development Councils in Lagos identified corruption as the biggest problem Nigeria is currently facing. According to her, “It is a cancer in our country. Corruption thrives because of lack of basic necessities of life. It also threatens community development. Nigerian mentality about corruption needs to be changed. If everybody looks inward, Nigeria would be a better place for us all. The CDAs and CDCs should be involved in the award of contracts and execution of projects to prevent fraud. Community policing would assist to expose corrupt persons in our communities and also respond quickly if there is an emergency.” She urged participants to embrace the attitude of “Change begins with me” adding that there must be a synergy between the CDAs, CDCs and the government in order to curb corruption.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Dele Seteolu narrated the story of a politician

who contested for the position of councillor at Agege. According to him, “We supported him and eventually he was elected. After a while, he stopped attending meetings in our locality. The next step he took was to relocate from his house which was at Papa area of Agege to Magodo Government Reserved Area.”

He proposed that before the states and local government areas could present their budget estimates, they were supposed to invite and involve the CDAs and CDCs during budget presentation. In his own speech at the occasion, Barrister Malachy Ugwumadu, National President, Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR) said Section 15 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, abhors all forms of corruption. He said the process of curbing corruption may be slow but something was happening. According to him, “The Administration of Criminal Justice Act was enacted in 2015. That law was promulgated in 2015 to avoid delays in criminal prosecution. The Supreme Court made a profound statement that says that when you are undergoing trial and you ask for stay of proceedings but it is not granted, you don't lose your right to fair hearing. It also provides that you cannot stop prosecution for a criminal offence until the end of the proceedings. All these laws have been made to uproot corruption. The masses should join CACOL and CDHR, so that we can fight for our rights.”

During the question and answer session, a question on how the phenomenon of imposition of candidates could be curbed in Nigerian political parties was asked. In response, Adeola Soetan had this to say, “Before you can curb corruption and imposition of candidates you must be a financial member of a political party. Don't allow one person to fund the party because, he would eventually hijack it and ask you to go and establish your own party.”

The Executive Chairman of CACOL used the period to announce that all participants at the lecture would be given certificates of attendance which would indicate that they had been trained to fight, investigate and tackle corruption in their various LGAs or LCDAs.

CACOL GATE WORKSHOP, HELD AT OSOGBO ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

VENUE: Oluosungboun Hall, NUJ Press Centre, Osogbo, State of Osun

The programme commenced at 11.35am, with Comrade Rufus T Oyatoro, CACOL's state of Osun Coordinator serving as the Master of Ceremony. He introduced all the invited guests and members of the CDAs and CDCs who were present after which registration of all participants and their different local governments was done.

CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe in his opening remarks at the workshop explained the meaning of Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project to the audience. He stated that the project was designed to educate Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Educators (GATEs) in all the local government areas of the state on how to track programmes, pledges and promises made by politicians during the electioneering period. He condemned acts of vote buying and selling which reportedly characterized recent elections held across the country and further stated that any voter who sells his vote instantly loses the moral authority to hold the politician who bought his vote accountable after election.

CACOL's Executive Chairman Comrade Debo Adeniran in his own speech said the core issue that needed to be understood was what constitutes corruption so that everybody would know how to avoid it. He further said that there was no gain - saying the fact that corruption had done Nigeria a lot of evil. He later explained different types of corruption and their meanings by outlining them as: -

- Kleptomaniac corruption - referred to that of a comfortable but greedy individual who loots because he wants to amass everything.
- Incidental or economic corruption is the type of graft that occurs when person who had previously acquired material wealth through legitimate means, but now insists on maintaining that former status. Such a person finds it difficult to sustain his former lifestyle since the economy has nose-dived. He now resorts to all kinds of measures to cut corners in order to sustain his/her living standard even when the reality of inflation and economic depression can no

longer sustain the same lifestyle.

- Moral corruption is the same as pseudo corruption in that, it is a situation which arises when corruption seems unreal. For example when the person involved tells lies to protect lives. Fables and superstitious tales which teach moral lessons also fall under this category.
- Real corruption refers to immoral and unacceptable lies or acts of dishonesty. He enjoins all to resist joining the choristers of “we all are corrupt” or that “corruption cannot be eradicated or minimized in the society”. We should continue to try our best to discourage this negative perception. Without any fear of contradiction, corruption has been single - handedly responsible for most of our ills. Chief Obafemi Awolowo was able to achieve more for the old western region in line with his party's four cardinal programmes due to the limited level of corruption that ensured that the state's resources were used for the overall benefit of the people. This resulted in the provision of free and qualitative education, free and qualitative health care, infrastructural development and employment for all. The opposite of that situation is what we face today.”

He further asserted that even when parents struggle to pay for their children's or wards' school fees, today's tertiary institutions lack adequate equipment and other teaching aids which students need to learn practically what they have been taught theoretically. After asking rhetorically, why this is so, he answered by stating that, It is simply because the funds needed to adequately equip these public schools were stolen by some individuals entrusted with power. Even the Auditor - General keeps silent because he/she has been compromised. Much of this stolen wealth is invariably laundered abroad like what our former Petroleum Minister Mrs. Dieziani Allison -Madueke did. We should never allow corruption to become so deeply-rooted like it has been in recent times.

The reason we need to keep abreast with everything is to enable us know all the channels through which our common wealth is frittered away; even while many of our traditional allies like the professional bodies and labour centres are compromised to keep silent or

urgently required. During the question and answer session, Comrade Waheed Lawal, a member of CACOL's Board of Trustees in his own contribution decried the hypocrisy of many over the fight against graft. He stated how CACOL'S main concern was how to preserve the nation and retain national cohesion so that we can live to witness a better tomorrow.

Another contributor, Ganiyu Semiu, Treasurer of Community Development Council (CDC) sin Egbedore Local Government Area of Osun State harped on the need to be well - connected in order to be able to fight corruption . He narrated a personal experience where efforts to get the right thing done backfired with the whistleblower ending up as an accused person and getting victimized. He therefore called for concerted efforts from the leaders and followers to make the fight against corruption a success.

Other contributors also made their observations on how the fight against corruption could be successfully carried out. There was a consensus that all hands should be on deck and that both the government and civil society organizations involved in the fight against corruption should remain committed. Comrade Debo Adeniran enjoined all present to contribute their own quota to make the fight against corruption a success by ensuring that each workshop participant who has now become an educator brings up a minimum of 10 other people to multiply the foot-solders in the anti-graft war. He emphasized the need for acquisition of knowledge to strengthen the resolve to confront evil in a confident manner since knowledge is power. He thereafter gave an example of his own personal experience while driving along the road in Osogbo whereby a man believed to be a government official had hit and dented his car, but insisted it was he, Comrade Adeniran that was at fault. But since nobody is above the law, Comrade Adeniran resisted the attempt by the government official to intimidate him. He explained that even if an ordinary citizen encounters an influential public officer, he could use the advantage of having the people on his side or the media to check the excesses of the government official to get the situation redressed. He thereafter requested the audience to review the entire discussion in a participatory manner.

IDENTIFYING CORRUPT ACTS

- (i) Extortion
- (ii) Bribery
- (iii) Judicial corruption
- (iv) Adjustment of measuring pan
- (v) Vote buying and selling
- (vi) Stealing
- (vii) Double standard
- (viii) Lying
- (ix) Manipulation
- (x) Cheating
- (xi) Profiteering
- (xii) Converting public property to private use
- (xiii) Diversion of public property to private use, e.g., a doctor in public service who diverts patients to his private clinic)
- (xiv) Forgery
- (xv) Fake news and alternative truth
- (xvi) Imposition / nepotism
- (xvii) Kick-back
- (xviii) Impersonation
- (xix) Sexual harassment
- (xx) Sex for marks
- (xxi) Child abuse /labour
- (xxii) Human trafficking
- (xxiii) Vandalism

VERIFIABLE LINES FOR REPORTING CORRUPTION

1. Community leaders, Human rights activist / organization
2. Police / Civil Defence (NSCDC)/ SSS/EFCC/ ICPC / Code of Conduct Bureau Public Complaints Commission / National Human Rights Commission/ Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC), Occupy Government House, Media, National Judicial Council (NJC), Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Religious Leaders, Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government (MDAs)

INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION

1. Photographs, recorded voices
2. Receipts, video recording
3. Vouchers, bank statements
4. Signed documents

C-GATE OSUN PUBLIC LECTURE

THEME: CURBING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA'S POLITICAL PROCESSES: ESTABLISHING A GRASSROOTS PARADIGM IN GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

VENUE: WHITE PLAIN SUITES & TOWERS, OSHOGBO BRANCH, KM 3, GBONGAN – IBADAN ROAD, OSHOGBO, STATE OF OSUN,

TIME: 11,00am

DATE: 21ST NOVEMBER, 2018

The programme commenced at 11.47am with CACOL's state of Osun Coordinator, Comrade Rufus Oyatoro, inviting the guest speaker, resource persons, dignitaries and other special guests to the high table. Prior to this, a comprehensive registration of all participants and their different local governments was done. Almost all the 18 LGAs in the state were represented by their various CDA leaders.

After the introduction and brief remarks made by Comrade Oyatoro, CACOL'S Coordinator For Media and Publications, Adegboyega Otunuga, gave an opening remark on how, why and what makes corruption such a serious affliction in Nigeria. He pointed out that most of the other problems that stagnate the country's socioeconomic development, thereby, leading to insecurity and social unrest today is traceable to this cankerworm. He observed that the advent of the country's colonial masters was a form of corruption itself, as Nigerians were living in peace with one another and had an organized and equitable method of interaction amongst one another.

He narrated how the advent of the British colonialism which was preceded by Uthman Dan Fodio's Islamic Jihad had railroaded most of the disparate nations into a forced nationhood. All these contributed to disrupt these harmonious settlements and created suspicion, distrust and wars between hitherto friendly communities while the colonial instigators eagerly supplied superior weapons and other instruments of conquests to their favourites. This war of attrition could be said to have laid the foundation for African countries' integration into a pseudo-capitalist arrangement, exploitation of the resources of the natives, as well as economic corruption.

The phenomenon that has been referred to as 'flag independence' for most African countries forcefully lumped together disparate nationalities to become one 'indivisible and indissoluble' state without adequate negotiation and agreement on terms and conditions for their togetherness. As time went on, some of the contradictions started manifesting as political and economic corruption threatened peaceful coexistence.

He also gave an insight into how the Yoruba nation was organized before the advent of Europeans and how corruption was almost none existent as sellers simply displayed their wares with samples of how much and nobody dared think of defaulting. He dwelt on how hungry people were free to feed from various farms they walked by but must never consider taking any farm product home for whatever purpose. This innocent lifestyle was sustained for ages by different African groups until the British, French, Portuguese and German colonialists came, disrupted the system and created a class system that consequently, led to class contradictions that later bred and sustained corruption which a former Soviet Union leader, V.I. Lenin once described as 'lubricant that oils the wheel of Capitalism'. As successive African colonial nations became independent without the needed capital base or adequate ingredients for sustaining and nurturing democracy, the effects of corruption became more biting and destructive on the body polity.

This brief remark prepared the ground for the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Comrade Debo Adeniran to do his presentation on, "*Introduction to Dynamics of Corruption*" as he used graphics to take the audience through what constitutes corruption and its various forms. Comrade Adeniran, commented on the elitist approach 35 in the fight against corruption and

concluded it had so far, failed to live up to expectations due to its alienation of the mass from the fight. He therefore, strongly advocated for collective ownership of the fight in a language that should be understood by ordinary Nigerians. At this juncture, he called for a collective discussion on how best to approach the fight in order to reach a consensus on the way forward. He identified the various types of corruption as follows: -

- Sadistic or Kleptomaniac Corruption- This refers to people who are very comfortable, but are never satisfied as they are very greedy
- Gluttonic or Social Corruption .This occurs when certain individuals want to rise above others at all costs; they are always greedy and insatiable
- Attitudinal or Reactive Corruption – This happens when an individual wants to be like the joneses. He may reason like this: “If mister A is stealing, then what stops me from also stealing?”
- Economic or Incidental Corruption – This refers to manipulation of a situation in order to get undeserved or double payment or wage, like a civil servant that is also a trader
- True Corruption – This applies to all dishonest acts
- Pseudo Corruption – This is not real corruption but applies in cases of telling what is referred to as 'white lies' to save a life or situation like the biblical story of Abraham denying Sarah was his wife but just a cousin for fear of being killed by the King

He (Comrade Debo Adeniran) identified causes of corruption as follows: -

- ✓ Prevalence of weak governmental institutions
- ✓ Discriminatory application of rules and the general Justice system
- ✓ The effect of public perception
- ✓ The nature of the economy
- ✓ Undue secrecy in governmental affairs

He pointed out the effects of Corruption as follows: -

- It reduces Investment Rate
- Leads to low standard of living

- Creates condition for political instability
- Leads to the elimination of the middle class
- It stagnates development

He further posed the question of what is to be done –

One of the steps to be taken is public enlightenment that leads to the engagement of the media and collaboration with stakeholders for societal good. Increase in social consciousness and empowerment that makes the people more steadfast and committed in securing a good life.

In his own contribution, Barrister Ige Ogunniyi Ayodeji of the Faculty of Law, Federal University, Oye- Ekiti said that in recent times, he had encountered students in higher institutions who purportedly passed their O' Level WASSCE and JAMB examinations, successfully but find it extremely difficult to learn and pass their examinations. What this means is that people no longer read to pass their exams but simply exploit devious means of securing good grades to gain admission at the expense of serious students who could not cut corners, for one reason or the other. He equally dwelt on how it was only the state or federal tiers of government that are legally empowered to prosecute culprits even though such power of prosecution could be delegated to a legal practitioner, if they so wish. The effect is that, on several occasions where the state's interest is involved, such prosecution is usually frustrated or completely disallowed, for instance the case which involved the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi (SAN), Colonels Halilu Akilu and Togun. Another example he cited was Barrister Femi Falana (SAN) and his request to be given the power to prosecute certain oil subsidy scammers. He said all these do not allow for an effective fight against corruption to take place within the polity. Other notable Speakers were: -

- Alhaji Yunusa Abu Bakare – Community Development Area, CDA Chairman, Osun State Comrade Waheed Lawal – CACOL Board Member
- Comrade Amitolu Shittu – State of Osun PCRC Chairman Comrade Opatotun Sunday – State of Osun Zonal Chairman of PCRC Comrade (Mrs.) Lola Wey – Executive Chairperson, Eco-Centre for

Transformation and Empowerment Initiative, ECTEI

Comrade Shittu traced the advent of corruption to the prevailing situation in our primary, secondary and tertiary institutions of learning and insisted that the after effect is what we see in the larger society where the people had been indifferent all along. He used a Yoruba proverb which says "Tia ba peko iroko, ti oba dagba tan, apa ko ni kaa mo". This means that in tackling corruption, charity needs to begin at home and all hands need to be on deck towards initiating the campaign against corruption at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. There is a need for the campaign to be reflected in the nation's educational curriculum and a national slogan is also required to elicit commitment. Necessary contributions and observations were made by all the special guests on combatting corruption and evolving a more prosperous, accountable and stable society.

During the question and answer session, the question of how best corruption could be curbed was posed whilst Comrade Adeniran replied.

The question of what role the law is playing in curbing corruption and how successful it has been was raised. Barrister Ige, cited some new developments in the administration of criminal justice system which have facilitated the fight against corruption. Some of these include the suspension of certain judges for corruption and limiting of the number of adjournments in a case to discourage legal filibustering for the purpose of delaying and perverting justice.

Some suggestions were presented. It was proposed that the project would likely be more successful if certain professionals like artisans, the hunters' club, fishermen and women groups, are targeted for discussions and enlightenment on the evils of corruption

The well-attended public lecture was brought to an end at 3:07pm.

QUARTER 2 (TWO) OF CACOL-GATE

The Grassroots Anti-Corruption Paradigm Shift...

A Succinct Account of the Second Quarter Report of CACOL'S GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY EDUCATION PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH MACARTHUR FOUNDATION, THROUGH UMAR MUSA YAR' ADUA FOUNDATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

SYNOPSIS OF THE SECOND QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR C-GATE

The second quarter began on December 3, 2018 and ended in March 2, 2019.

During quarter consolid its drive extirpate n by g its among grassroot Lagos states.



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its various activities to disseminate the message of grassroots conscientization as a powerful strategy to champion the anti-graft crusade in the urban centres and rural areas of Lagos and Osun states.

The second quarter of the project focused on consolidating the education of the grassroots people about the negative impact of corruption and their role in the nation's developmental process. The partnership between CACOL and the grassroots as represented by the C-GATE units became stronger

among the urban and rural populace in Lagos and Osun states.

During the second quarter, four assessment and feedback workshops were held to enable participants receive advanced training for the purpose of expanding their theoretical understanding of the issues involved in the fight against corruption. More members were recruited to join the C-GATE units from various communities. Most of the new recruits underwent training on how to track the promises of politicians and report corrupt acts committed by public office holders within their LGAs and LCDAs. CACOL's internet platforms- created for regular communication with members of the C-GATE units -have been flooded with information about their activities in both states.

During the second quarter, state actors who were initially reluctant to participate in the GATE project, gradually began identifying with it by attending some of CACOL's activities. CACOL's decision to blaze the trail in mobilizing the grassroots in the anti-graft crusade apparently sent warning signals to public officers in Lagos and Osun states.

The CACOL Chairman remained the rallying point during the quarter. During one of his memorable presentations he expressed regret over how low the society had sank in terms of morality.

At one of the events he remarked that Nigeria's political leaders did not consider religion or ethnicity whenever they wanted to divert public funds but only used same tools to divide the people and divert their attention in order to pursue their narrow interests. He also urged parents to ensure that their children sit for external examinations without being helped by anybody as such help was tantamount to cheating and involvement in corrupt acts.

During this quarter, the leadership of CACOL demonstrated the capacity to conscientize the grassroots on its historical responsibility to be in the vanguard of the campaign to free the nation from the shackles of shady public office holders who have remained promoters of corruption. The onerous task of tackling corruption headlong was made clearer while

emphasis was continuously laid on how the anti-graft war must be people-driven before it could succeed.

At the various events that were organized during the quarter, the speeches delivered by Mr Adeniran and other leaders of CACOL clearly outlined the moral obligation every responsible Nigerian had in joining the war against corruption. For instance, during one of his speeches, Adeniran noted that if honesty truly paid in Nigeria, virtually everybody would love to be honest. But since the reverse was the case, the people now found it so difficult to remain honest.

During one of the lectures held during the quarter at Osogbo, CACOL's Coordinator for Osun State, Mr. Rufus Oyatoro made it clear that an individual had to put a stop to the corruption in his home before eradicating the one outside. Speaking along the same line CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation Mr Okechukwu Ndiribe urged participants to educate the people against selling their votes during the 2019 general election.



TIDBITS OF EVENTS WITHIN THE SECOND QUARTER

C-GATE WORKSHOP HELD AT EBKUN HALL, IRESI, OSUN STATE ON 30 DECEMBER, 2018

CACOL's Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (C-GATE) workshop was held at Iresi, in Irepodun North Local Government Area of Osun state on December 30, 2018. The event was organized to educate the people on the on-going war against corruption in Nigeria.

The theme for the workshop was: *“Curbing Corruption in Nigeria's Political Processes: Establishing a Grassroots Paradigm in Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency.”*

Mr. Oyatoro, CACOL's Coordinator in Osun State served as the MC at the occasion. Explaining the purpose for the workshop he said: “One has to put a stop to the corruption in one's house before eradicating or kicking the one outside.” He continued, “Corruption is an act of changing things for the worse that is a departure from what is pure, simple, or correct. Our political leaders are the main source of corruption all over Nigeria.” CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation, Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe, gave a deeper insight into the C-GATE project. He further stated that CACOL was established by Mr. Debo Adeniran who is an indigene of Iresi.

According to him, “The C-GATE project was brought to the community to educate the people of Iresi so that they would not sell their votes to the highest bidder in the forth-coming general election. “He further explained that if the people vote for the right candidate, he would serve them well after assuming office adding that If the wrong candidate is voted into office, he will not serve the people. He said such an elected officer would forget that he is there to represent and work in the interest of the people. He further explained that the C-Gate project was established for the purpose of educating the people and prevent them from becoming victims of politicians with sugar-coated mouths.

Mr. Debo Adeniran, the Executive Chairman of CACOL explained the



meaning of corruption and ways to fight the social malaise. He addressed the people in Yoruba as follows: “When you were in the womb, you lived in peace because it was not spoilt but when a child is born; he begins to encounter society’s problems very early in life. “This is because, a child is exposed very early to his corrupted environment” he said.

He continued: “Back in those days, people were deceived to buy fake drugs; a fake version of what they wanted to buy was sold to them because it was presented to look like the real drug. Corruption started just like that in those days. One could be deceived by a carpenter because you might expect a good

wood to be used for a job you have asked him to do - but wrong that strong



g might be used eventually. This is another example of corruption”. “Don't let another person's action determine yours; act rightfully based on your conscience. This is because you don't know the determinants of the next person's behavior.”

He recited a Yoruba saying: “ise ni ogun ise”- which translates into hard work, is the antidote to poverty- to emphasize his point and make the people understand his message. He continued, “You don't need to shout or cry for your right; that is why you have to do the right thing at the right time by voting for the right and trusted candidates. You know the good ones. Select those good ones to represent you; don't fall into the trap of the bad and spoilt ones to

avoid becoming compromised in the future. You will be used wrongly by politicians in the future if you are not responsible to yourself. You will be used to carry out their evil acts, if they realize that you can serve as a tool to them.”

He further urged the people to ensure that the government works on their behalf adding that the people should insist that the government should pay more attention to agriculture so that there would be enough food for the people. He explained that agriculture didn't have to do with only plants, but all living things which also include animals. According to him, “There are a lot of things we have that can serve as viewing centres in this community. They include Odo-Posi, Odo-Amu, Agbinran, Ota Apekun, Ebekun Shrine, Oke Wonerere, Igbo Ebekun and Ancient Chain.”

He urged the people to give politicians the opportunity to develop their community adding that “A child that lifts his arms is easy for a mother to carry.” According to Adeniran, “Iresi should take care of their natural resources, in order to attract government's response. “The indigenes must encourage themselves to be fully engaged economically, so that the state government can have a better revenue base through taxation. This kind of commitment and engagement is also capable of attracting further development through government assistance via provision of infrastructural facilities and training.

CACOL's FEEDBACK WORKSHOP WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF LAGOS STATE CDCs AND CDAs (23/1/19)

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, (CACOL) held its Feedback workshop on the Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project with the theme “*Curbing Corruption in Nigeria's Political Processes: Establishing A Grassroots Paradigm In Good Governance Accountability and Transparency*” on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. The workshop which was organized with a view to curbing corruption and enthroning open leadership at the grassroots had in attendance leaders of Community Development Committees (CDCs) and Community Development Associations (CDAs) in the 57 local

government areas (LGAs) and 37 local council development areas (LCDAs) in the state. The workshop was aimed at getting feedback from the leadership of the CDCs and CDAs on how much success had been achieved in ensuring that promises made by politicians during the electioneering period were recorded.

In the opening remarks made by Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe, CACOL's coordinator for Research and Documentation, (CRD) he noted that efforts to monitor the campaign promises of politicians at the grassroots level were initiated by CACOL on October 17, 2018 during which leaders of CDCs and CDAs were trained on how to keep track of promises made by politicians before the elections. He emphasized how they were being trained to become veritable ambassadors of Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE). He expressed hope that participants at the workshop were already putting into practice much of what they learnt during the last public lecture.

In his own speech, CACOL's Executive Chairman, Mr. Debo Adeniran reminded participants that previous trainings, both in Lagos and Osun states, were geared towards deepening democracy in Nigeria through the instrumentality of educating the grassroots in ways and means that should equip them enough to hold their leaders accountable. He remarked that Nigeria's political leaders do not consider religion or ethnicity whenever they want to divert public funds but only use same tools to divide the people and divert their attention in order to pursue their elitist narrow interests. He cited the example of former President Olusegun Obasanjo who had been so critical of incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari's policies in recent times, but yet attended a State Council meeting where he gave an opening prayer before commencement of proceedings for the day.

He also recalled how the same Obasanjo built a university, a Presidential Library Complex and farm enterprise obviously worth billions of Naira - which were far in excess of his entitlements and earnings, both as a retired Army General and a former President of the nation- yet, all petitions aimed at probing such illicit accumulation of wealth have been frustrated by relevant anti-corruption agencies and governments since he (Obasanjo)

left office. He said this also applied to other high-level corruption cases involving many politically exposed individuals. He therefore, advised that it

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aspirants during the period of campaigns. He noted that politicians were fond of telling the people what would be music to their ears during the electioneering period adding that no politician would tell the people that he would destroy an existing bridge when he is seeking for their votes.

According to him, “They would always tell us they would even build more bridges, only to show their true colours once they get into office.” He noted that if honesty truly pays in Nigeria, virtually everybody would love to be honest. But since the reverse is the case, it has become so difficult or even suicidal, at times, to remain honest, and that is the kernel of our problem in Nigeria. The CACOL boss identified certain criteria for determining the sincerity of campaign promises made by politicians, which Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Educators (GATES) must encourage their members to consider in appraising campaign promises while engaging politicians:

It should be specific

It should be measurable

It should be achievable

- Needs assessment must be mutually carried out
- It should be time-bound

He insisted that once any campaign promise fails to measure up to any of these tests, the politician who made the promise may not likely be trustworthy.

Contributions/Observations from CDCs and CDAs

While many leaders of the various community development associations commended their local governments or LCDA leaders for their cooperation, inclusiveness and openness, many others decried the uncooperative attitude of their representatives at that tier of government and noted how some of the political leaders had always imposed their favoured candidates on the CDC and sometimes even encouraged the impeachment or removal of 'unfavourable' leaders who were usually accused of not cooperating enough. Some of the participants expressed the view that unless enabling laws that grant independence to local government authorities- which would clearly define the position of the CDC in the scheme of things- is passed and assented to, nothing tangible could be achieved to change the present situation. Another CDC Chairman noted how the collective interest of 'Lagosians' may not be properly and judiciously served as the three senators representing the state in Abuja were not indigenes of the state; that such non-indigenes may compromise the interest of the state at the National Assembly if the interest of Lagos should clash with that of their respective states of origin.

While some of the CDC leaders expressed their conviction that C-GATE was a good and effective effort at tackling corruption at the grassroots, a few of them insisted that corruption is better addressed from the top. Majority of the participants revealed how they had always briefed their Chairmen about trainings or workshops on CGATE to avoid their aims and objectives being misconstrued and risk getting tagged as 'saboteurs' or members of opposition while others insist on maintaining their independence.

The CDC Chairman representing Ajeromi-Ifelodun LCDA, Mr. Tunde Balogun narrated how he had been handling the uncooperative attitude of his LGA Chairman adding that he was at a time reported to the state governor, Governor Akinwunmi Ambode for purportedly being 'anti-APC'.

He was explained how had been that of partisanship even executive members who parties of their emphasized on CDCs and CDAs neutral, if they relevant and irrespective of the and intimidation this is the only continue to be a watchdog on holders. Mr. stated that the in the state could politicized when neutral adding that this would go a long way in checking the excesses of political office holders who may be power drunk.



summoned and he and why his style no political though they were committee belonged to choice. He the need for the to be politically must always be respectable, blackmail, threats by politicians, as way for them to veritable political office Balogun further CDCs and CDAs only be de- their leaders are

The CDA and CDC leaders were later divided into various groups for discussion on best ways to interrogate campaign promises of politicians towards achieving greater accountability and openness at the LGA level. At the end of the group discussions, participants agreed that most of their conversations with politicians during the electioneering period should be recorded. Other resolutions were as follows: -

- ❖ To get hold of the manifesto of politicians who made promises during the campaign period;
- ❖ To make inputs into the Manifesto;

- ❖ That the CDC/CDA should have a Monitoring Group, set up to assess the level of fulfillment of campaign promises after the affected politician (s) must have assumed power;
- ❖ That provision of infrastructure should always be a priority;
- ❖ That provision of drainage and evacuation of refuse must be part of inputs the CDAs and CDCs must make into any list of promises or manifesto presented to them

Comrade Adeola Soetan, a former President of University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) Students Union Government and the National Coordinator of Democracy Vanguard later remarked on how partisan politics once crumbled a farmers' association he belonged to in Ogun state and advised the CDCs on insisting and maintaining their independence and non-partisanship.

Interrogating Politicians on their Campaign Promises

The representative of the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), Barrister Joke Fekumo, in her own contribution on how to interrogate and ensure politicians fulfill campaign promises they made, suggested as follows: -

- ✓ Advocacy – Contact Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to mount pressure and get the political leader to redeem his/her pledge
- ✓ Demanding for Accountability
- ✓ Appealing to their Conscience
- ✓ Write Anonymous letter (s) to higher authorities and relevant individuals
- ✓ Send evidence (s) on dereliction of duty by the politician to the Social Media

At the end of the workshop, the goal of preparing the CDA and CDC leaders to become CACOL's Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Educators (C-GATES) and also deepen the democratic culture at that level of governance was lauded by all participants. It was also agreed that the objective of spreading CACOL's anti-corruption message amongst the generality of Nigerians throughout the nation is a worthy goal since it

would serve as a safeguard for democracy.

GROUP DISCUSSION THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE CACOL'S FEEDBACK SESSION AND PUBLIC LECTURE, HELD ON 23/1/2019, IN LAGOS

The group discussion was led by the facilitators. So, after the discussion, Comrade Abiodun Coker, the CDC Chairman of Ayobo Ipaja noted, we have about three sets of people; we have the elderly, the 1950 and we have 1990 so, we have to balance it. The elderly said, we used to be in position, before that we contacted those to be elected and we all agreed on that so, we now suggested that the community should be fully involved in recommending their representatives to the political party so, we have to remind them before we jump into our decision on how do we now interrogate them. We have agreed that we should invite them, and put it on campaign media if they didn't respond then we will report them and we should encourage them to have functional constituency office if we can use the two methods to bring them to us we should be able to appreciate them for coming to our midst. We agreed that we should be having regular meetings with them thank you very much. "We are one".

We are talking about how to interrogate politicians, what we do is that whenever they come to us, we discuss together and we put things in order. We should monitor their activities through the Media; we should contact them anyway possible. If they refuse to attend our meeting then, we can write them. Our group has done well on how to interrogate politicians: -

(1) What we do is that whenever they come to us, all what we discuss we put it in recording

(2) We should monitor the activities through having meeting with them and we should make the meeting continuously and constant. Those are the two points we have and the last one is that if they refuse to attend meeting we will report them to the higher authority, thanks.

My name is Prince Daniel. In our group we agreed on something individual

politicians once the CDC and CDA, should form what we call a monitoring team to monitor the actualization of the manifestos to the letter of course, the monitoring can be expanded by having meeting from time to time as they like. Then, we concluded again that there are some of those things that are paramount to us that they might not we will let them know that such things are and anybody that want your vote will let you know by that time, they will know what they are doing. For those of them who inquire for this monitoring team, again it has been common among all of them they are coping, one will come they will do empowerment, another one will come will do empowerment this empowerment is common in our community so, the monitoring will be charge monitoring empowerment



Thank you.

Mr. Adeniran called on Joke Fekunmo representing Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) to say one or two things.

Joke Fekumo: Good afternoon everybody. Please permit me to speak in English because I will not be able to communicate in Yoruba fluently I want to appreciate Mr. Debo Adeniran for the work he is doing. I have some points based on the topic on ground. It is sensible and reasonable for every leader to deliver their promises. Your word should be your bond. But, if they say their

word, the first thing to do is to interrogate them and know their promises. Don't say that when they are doing their campaign you will not follow them. Somebody mention something in my group. He said at a particular meeting, a leader was invited. Somebody came out and said, on such a date you said this. The leader could not talk. They will make promises they will not do it. Another way to interrogate them is to ask questions. Meet some CSOs. CACOL is here. You know the way Mr. Debo is doing. Infact he's good. You can meet SERAP and CDHR. Send letters to them. If this will not work, use the demand for accountability. If that will not work, appeal to their conscience and cool their temper. We ladies know how to do it. All we need to do is to remind him by saying "Sir you promised that you will re construct all hospital in these particular area and you have not done it. In fact in the last one week, 10 women and children have died."

So, you appeal to their conscience. Women can appeal to our fathers and husbands. It could work. If this doesn't work, let us send those letters on what they promised they would do. An anonymous letter of what they said they would do. Maybe they have claimed that they have done it. Send your letter with pictures. Paste it on their board; don't write your name. It is an anonymous letter.

C-GATE SECOND FEEDBACK SESSION AND PUBLIC LECTURE HELD IN LAGOS ON 20 FEBRUARY, 2019.

The event kicked off by 11.35 with the introduction of the Executive Chairman of CACOL Mr. Debo Adeniran and other special guests. In his opening remarks at the occasion, the Coordinator for Research and Documentation (CRD), Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe reminded participants at the Public lecture that so far CACOL had been training them on steps to take with regard to monitoring the campaign promises of politicians in their various LGAs and LCDAs. He further stated that today event would focus more on feedback from participants adding that representatives of various LGAs and LCDAs would narrate their experiences with politicians during the on-going campaign period.

In his presentation at the occasion, Mr. Adeniran stated that everybody had a

role to play to make the Nigerian society better. He further stated that the lot of the people would surely improve if they collectively contribute their own quota in the fight against corruption. He further stated that the leadership of the CDCs and CDAs were incorporated into the on-going project because they were the representatives of the people. He further stated that members of any community in Nigeria had a responsibility of monitoring the activities of those they have elected into political offices to represent them. Adeniran further stated that in order to achieve greater impact in the society, there was need for partnership between CACOL and the grassroots so that they could jointly monitor political office holders and confront them if they are deviating.

He further explained that CACOL had embarked on the on-going project because its goal is to take the fight against corruption to the grassroots adding that the people could not afford to keep quiet when they were being misrepresented.

Speaking on the sub-topic: - The Little Things That Matter. Mr. Adeniran narrated the story of an under-aged girl who was having an affair with a middle-aged man adding that parents have a responsibility of being vigilant over their kids. He further stated that the people should be vigilant in the same manner with their elected representatives.

He further urged parents to instill a culture of hardwork among their children adding that some parents support their children to engage in examination malpractices. He urged parents to ensure that their children sit for external examinations without being helped by anybody as such help is tantamount to cheating and by extension corruption. He further appealed to participants to refrain from making negative comments like: "We can't eliminate corruption in Nigeria". He said that those who were stealing public funds today were actually comparable to bastards.

He further stated that sometime ago, while doctors were on strike he confronted a serving Governor and demanded to know why he refused to pay doctors their salaries. He said he asked the Governor whether his action was based on the fact that neither he nor any member of his family ever used a

public hospital.

However, the governor's reply was that the question was based on his ignorance about the workings of the government bureaucracy. He further stated that the society could not exist in isolation of the people that make it up. He expressed regret that some people accuse CACOL of talking too much, but the world was made with the word adding that he will not be silent until things improve for the better in the country. He explained that CACOL's efforts should be appreciated adding that even the #1,000 being given to each participant was a little stipends, but the truth is CACOL is not supposed to pay participants for attending this workshop/ training session. He praised the commitment so far exhibited by participants.

In his own remarks at the occasion, the National Coordinator for Democracy Vanguard (DV), Comrade Adeola Soetan, admonished participants not to sell their votes in the forth-coming election. He further said

any

gets before his vote also given corruption.

In conclusion,

the Executive Director of Civil Society Network Against Corruption (CSNAC) Mr. Lanre Suraj, said Corruption starts from infancy at home. He further observed that moral values had seriously declined in the society adding that nowadays, parents indulge in buying exams papers for their



that body who paid or engaging in corruption.

his own contribution,

wards. He further stated that children must pass or get good grades in their public examinations and that it is to their discredit for their children to fail exams. He maintained that it is to the grassroots that we must look for solutions to uproot corruption and change the society for better adding that there was still a lot of corruption in government offices.

Barr. Joke Fekumo, who represented Barr. Adetokunbo Mumuni, the Executive Director of Socio-Economic Rights and Advocacy Project (SERAP), stated that corruption still exists even within the judiciary. She said if she goes to court to file documents for cases, she had to offer cash inducements to court officials before they would do their jobs adding that this situation was responsible for civil society groups lacking some of the information they required.

Speaking at the occasion Mrs. Adesola who represented Ikorodu CDC said the issue of corruption has been persisting for a long time adding that this should not deter us from making efforts to eradicate or greatly minimize it, especially since the entire world already perceives it to be bad or unacceptable. She further stated that although, it may not be easy to uproot, but with persistence and by speaking truth to each other we can easily tackle the malaise. She further stated that no politician will give everybody one million naira, and posed the rhetorical question of how much is “our conscience was really worth?” She identified selfishness as the bane of the grassroots, adding that with sincerity of purpose, this could be overcome. She maintained that the people must realize that even if they collect #50,000 each, it would not solve all their problems. She insisted that If we collect money from a politician before he gets elected, we would not have the moral right to call them to account while the politician could also believe that since he paid for the mandate, he is free to do anything with it, including retrieving his financial investment and make profits adding that we should continue to tell to our Politicians the truth, whether at Local or any level, hoping that one day, they may hearken to our advice.

A representative of Mushin CDC spoke next and said even though he was attending the GATE event for the first time; his unit was now determined to fight corruption in Mushin LGA. He urged participants to expose their

children when they are involved in unruly behavior. A second speaker from Mushin also made a similar declaration adding that corruption would no longer be tolerated in Mushin.

A CDC representative from Oshodi/Isolo LGA requested to know how CACOL was funding the GATE project. He also wanted to know how his CDC could recruit anti-corruption crusaders.

Another speaker from Mushin CDC who spoke next demanded to know how CACOL could assist them to fight corruption in Mushin.

A speaker who did not disclose his identity urged CACOL to take the GATE project to the various LGAs and LCDAs adding that more people would embrace it.

Next in line was, Mr Tunde Balogun representing Ajeromi/Ifelodun CDC. He thanked Mr Adeniran for his efforts in the fight against corruption. He stated that Ajeromi/Ifelodun CDC was independent of the local government adding that under his leadership over 300 youths had been employed in the LGA. He further narrated how the chief executive of an unnamed company in the LGA offered N5, 000, 000 as gratification to him but he rejected it. He said he asked the man who made the offer to use that money and rehabilitate a road in the area and also employ the youths.

He further stated that his CDC was already writing down the promises of a candidate for the House of Representatives adding that he would like CACOL to teach his CDC how to recall a non-performing legislator from the parliament.

In his contribution at the occasion, the CDC representative for Ayobo/Ipaja CDC said they had been spreading the gospel of C-GATES among the schools in the area adding that they started with primary schools. He disclosed that they were now disseminating the message among secondary schools in the area. A member of the audience who did not disclose his identity stated why it may be difficult for them to go back to their Local government and insist on accountability and transparency without any financial or moral backing from CACOL or C-GATE. He narrated how a CSO once paid and financed them on a similar assignment in the past only to

According to him, “It is sheer wickedness to amass wealth and keep on imploring the congregation to wait for their own turn. It is anti-Christ as Jesus Christ always defended the weak against the strong. Some concrete issues of life should be beyond prayer as they require our practical response. He bemoaned how prayers are oftentimes, employed to make us inactive or condone oppression by always leaving everything to God. We pray before meetings, we pray after meetings, etc. The same season of prayers is always observed in all our prisons, including Ikoyi prison; yet, they engage in drug abuse including smoking of Indian hemp, sniffing of gum or fumes from pit latrine and commit more crimes, even while there. “They come out from prison more hardened after all the prayers. This is why a new approach to tangible reforms is required to birth a new nation, with one destiny under the true God of sincerity and care.”

He further stated how C-GATE is primarily aimed at turning us to freedom fighters and genuine agents of progressive and anticorruption advocates, as prayer will not turn an illiterate to a professor or a public orator, unless he/she goes back to school and acquire requisite knowledge. Mr. Debo Adeniran later apologized on behalf of Comrade Adeola Soetan, who was supposed to deliver the next paper. He was unavoidably absent due to the health of his wife. He implored the House to accept the apology. Adeniran later introduced Mr. Ifabunmi Jonathan to speak on “Traditional Yoruba Ways of Fighting Corruption” before the advent of the British colonialists.

Mr. Ifabunmi took the gathering through the gamut of the Yoruba mores and folklore, taboos and methods of rewarding hard work and virtues as well as imposition of punishments for any infractions or untoward attitudes to serve as a deterrent to other. He gave series of examples to justify how the people of past Yoruba communities lived for honesty and with altruism never lacked while the wicked, the unjust and the deceivers always met their Waterloo, irrespective of how long.

He equally noted how the over-monetization of our lives had led to a dog-eat-dog syndrome and made us to jettison our traditional African hospitality that allowed for each to be his brother's keeper. He insisted that the result is the confusion we witness in the modern society adding that the foreign religions were brought to checkmate all that was good about e

our way of life so that our Arab and European colonialists would control our minds as well as our way of life. He posited that nothing was superior about their way of life as we had a more humane and caring socio-political system that discouraged exploitation and inhumanity of man to man. He thereafter concluded that, *'Honesty is still the best Policy'*.

After the music interlude, Mr. Debo Adeniran came back and enjoined all to clap in appreciation of their dedication and commitment to change for the better. He noted that, when the Europeans came and claimed that we were making human sacrifices, it was not altogether true as only the traitors or turncoats were being sacrificed to the gods after they were exposed, so as not to allow them poison the moral foundation of the community. It was forbidden to betray the collective interest at that point in time. So, the Europeans concluded based on shallow understanding of human sacrifice without considering the reason for such extreme measures which was like capital punishment. Someone that was confirmed as very corrupt by his former boss while they were in power now comes forward to tell us that he will give amnesty to those who have stolen our resources before, even when some other countries have imposed capital punishment for such a crime. He insisted that in civilized countries, such persons would be made to establish companies for others to come and work there. He asked: “If Alamiyeseigha who was given state pardon was still alive, wouldn't he have polluted others?” But we cannot say everything here because we must take your contributions and interventions too.

A CACOL staff Mr. Nosa Uwumwose read the guidelines for setting up C-GATEs units at the grassroots. He stated that there must be a minimum of 3-5 people who have been meeting regularly. There must also be minutes of such meetings after which they would be given CGATE Identity cards and a flag for recognition. CACOL's Project and Programme Officer (PPO) Mr. Ikenna Aghagbobi later added that there is no limit to the number of units that may exist in an LGA or LCDA as the more, the merrier. That the essence is to make CACOL'S Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Educators, veritable ambassadors of accountability that would put political leaders at the grassroots on their toes by asking cogent questions and encourage them to deliver on their campaign promises. Mr. Adeniran made some additional remarks adding that some Nigerians had become so cynical

back out later, due to paucity of funds.

C-GATE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP HELD IN LAGOS ON MARCH 6, 2019

The occasion began at 11.10am with CACOL'S Projects and Programmes Officer (PPO), Mr Ikenna Aghagbobi acting as T Master of Ceremony. He introduced CACOL's Executive Chairman Mr. Debo Adeniran and other special guests to the audience. He then invited CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation (CRD), Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe to make the opening remarks. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ndiribe welcomed the participants to the day's event.

He recalled that many of the participants had already attended several workshops and public lectures on the “Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE)” project which began about five months ago. He further stated that the theme of the anti-corruption project remained “Curbing Corruption in Nigeria's Political Processes; Establishing a Grassroots Paradigm in Good Governance Accountability and Transparency.”

He further explained that the purpose for the capacity building workshop was to strengthen participants on how to track promises made by politicians during their campaign period and remind them of such promises after they assume office.

In his own speech at the occasion, Mr. Adeniran declared that Nigerian citizens were united. He apologized over the slight delay in the commencement of the programme adding this was because CACOL decided that participants who arrived early should wait for a while for others who came from distant parts of the state.

He further stated that he had monitored the progress of participants since the project took off some months back adding that from the beginning, he was aware that they already had some skills on their own as leaders of CDCs, CBOs and faith-based organizations.

According to him, “However, the skill that is required in the execution of this project is a little bit different. Our major goal is to reduce corruption in government to the barest minimum. Our mission is to ensure that the grassroots take over the anti-corruption war from the elites.”

He continued: “When we talk about the fight against corruption, we don't mean it has to be a physical combat which could result in physically confronting an LGA Chairman and say to him: “Look, you promised our community a bridge, but you only built a culvert. If you don't build the bridge, you are going no-where”.

He further stated that CACOL wouldn't confront the Governor of Lagos State over the fact that some children in the state were still learning under tree shades. He continued: “We are not going to say unless you build a classroom for such children today, where. We are not or the waist-band fight is going to be We are going to advocacy.” He CACOL would advocacy skill the battle.

According to him: we are activists is pugilists who can with anybody; it is carry guns, cutlasses, machetes don't do that. It is resort to violence to the intellectually in this way.“



“The reason why not because we are exchange blows not because we bayonets, or knives” We cowards who settle scores. It is lazy who behave

He continued: “What we have is knowledge in this fight between

the powerful and the less privileged. Nobody can enslave you without your consent. But if we don't exercise our rights, we would not be able to fight the battle and we would continue to remain silent. We would not even be totally silent because we would be grumbling. “

He further stated that he was aware that many of the participants who were leaders of different organizations were educated adding that some of them were his teachers. According to him, “We can now exercise our rights and also utilize our inherent power as a group in the society”. He expressed regret that those elected into political office had deliberately denied the people knowledge about governance so that they could perpetually exploit ordinary citizens adding that these were some of the shenanigans they used against the under-privileged.

Said he, “Sometimes, they even use language the people can't understand to campaign. But that is not what the people want to hear. What we can understand is the language that was presented in the previous workshops and smart questions that must be asked”.

Citing an example, he stated that despite Agege's proximity to the Lagos airport, a politician with sugar-coated tongue could promise residents of the area that he would build an airport in the area if elected into office. Adeniran maintained that it is incumbent on the people to demand for explanations as to what is meant by 'airport' in such a circumstance.

In her own remarks at the occasion, Mrs. Adelanke Aremo who represented Adetokunbo Mumini, the Executive Director of Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) thanked CACOL for inviting SERAP to the occasion. She stated that advocacy was one of SERAP's key areas. Speaking to participants at the workshop, she urged them to ensure that they understood their grievances adequately before taking any step to lodge a protest adding that planning and dedication were essential for advocacy.

She further explained that the next step was to draw up a plan of action and also identify key stakeholders in the area the community has grievances. She advised them to adopt a planning strategy that is achievable and timely.

Commenting on the penchant of politicians to make fake promises during campaign period, she urged the participants to record such promises and remind those who made them after they may have won elections and assumed office. She further stated that participants could use the FOI Act to demand for any information they require while preparing to lodge a complaint against any politician or suspected corrupt public officer.

She recalled how SERAP wrote a letter to the Federal Ministry of Water resources demanding for some information about a project sometimes ago and they replied. Said she: “They said they didn't have all the required information and referred us to Federal Ministry of Agriculture. “ The SERAP representative stated that collaboration between different non-governmental organizations could also be adopted as a strategy to put pressure on government institutions to provide information on issues of public concern.

Aremo further said that that sometime ago, SERAP had to write the Nigerian Army to provide information concerning a research they were engaged in. She stated that although the Army ignored other civil society organizations that had written them previously to demand for the same information, the military institution responded to the request from SERAP.

In his own remarks at the occasion, Mr. Tunde Balogun, the Chairman of Ajeromi/Ifelodun CDC stated that his own body was totally independent of local government influence. He demanded to know how his CDC could get information on some contracts awarded in his LGA. He further explained that there was a certain contract his CDC investigated and discovered that the contractor had attempted to cut corners by diverting about N50m from the contract sum approved. Balogun further stated that there was a certain school project that his CDC wanted assistance to probe adding that his LGA had been promised many constituency projects which never saw the light of the day in the past. He asked: “How can somebody collect N250m and we can't see anything up till now?”

In his own remarks at the occasion, the representative of Ayobo/Ipaja CDC regretted that his generation was a wasted one because there were no opportunities for holding the government accountable when he was

younger.

He said in the past, it was only a person of substance who could stand his ground and ask questions concerning the issue of accountability and transparency in government. He recalled how former Ghanaian military ruler Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings had arrested all former Heads of State in that country and executed them for corruption.

In his own reaction, the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran urged the participants to ensure they adequately understood the information contained in the presentation by Mrs Adelanke Aremo of SERAP adding that the thrust of her presentation was that ordinary Nigerians could demand for accountability from the government.

He urged the participants to realize that they had rights that have been granted to them by Nigerian laws. He mentioned for instance, Nigerian children had the right to education, health and nutritious food. He asked: “Why should Nigerians allow some greedy persons the opportunity to hijack public resources while the rest of society keeps quiet? Why should they say pastors should not be questioned?” He recalled that Jesus Christ was on the side of the poor and weak against the strong and powerful when he was alive adding that advocacy was about the citizens asserting their rights.

He further stated that a healthy couple ought to give birth to healthy children adding that if Nigeria's healthcare system was strong, no woman ought to die due to childbirth complications. He further stated that provision of the right diet and few other basic facilities could drastically reduce the incidence of maternal mortality rate in Nigeria. Adeniran stated that the various tiers of government had a responsibility to ensure that Nigeria has enough doctors that would ensure that every pregnant woman goes through a safe delivery. The CACOL boss further stated that the *Tradermoni* and *Marketmoni* which were recently distributed in several markets across the country were deserved by the people. Mr. Adeniran also told the participants that they had a right to enquire about whatever project the government was executing in their various communities. He posed some questions about former Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola's style of governance which he said was

elitist.

He asked: “What about us? What about areas of the state like Aboru, Alimoso and Oke-koto? Don't they deserve government presence?” “It is not every part of the state that has people who can influence the siting of projects within their communities. It is clearly unfair. Is it everybody that lives in Lekki that is rich? And we are supposed to be equal before God and man. If you live below your earnings, then you are facing oppression. Adeniran narrated how he had visited the Bourdillon-Ikoyi home of the former Governor of Lagos State, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu to keep an appointment with him.

The CACOL boss recollected how he waited for so long and even sent a message after waiting for hours without receiving any reply. He said on his way back home, he received a call from one of Tinubu's aides who had been asked to meet the ex-governor offer he said he did not reject. He said he was later called by Tinubu himself (Adeniran) of turn down his as conveyed by said he replied and so he had to repair it adding appointment to wasting over three house.



According to the “Thereafter, wouldn't mind to buy me another car to replace the faulty one.”

CACOL boss, Tinubu said he

Adeniran said he replied that he was comfortable with his car. He said he replied Tinubu that way in order to maintain his dignity and never to mortgage his conscience.

The CACOL boss insisted that in a properly governed country, no woman should die during childbirth, since all that is necessary for a safe delivery would have been properly taken care of.

Said he; “It is the responsibility of the state to provide work for everybody since no human being should be jobless except he is handicapped due to physical disability. He also emphasized on the rights of the people to know as contained in the Freedom Of Information (FOI) bill. This is why you must exercise your rights to know by asking specific and pointed questions from your leaders. We put our political office holders on their toes when we ask relevant questions and discourage them from kleptomaniac tendencies. “

He also emphasized on the right to associate adding that it is only through free association and organization that we promote unity and strengthen our resolve and capacity to be relevant and make the government at all levels to deliver their campaign promises without fear or favour.

He added, “This is why you must never compromise by selling your votes or rights cheaply since the office holders would automatically lose their respect for you once you do this.” He later cited the example of the former Governor of Osun state, Chief Bisi Akande, who rather than deceive the people of Osun state after assuming power, told them the truth about the financial situation he met. He told them how and why he had to ration certain aspects of governance, especially the calls for salary increment so as to allow for the development of other sectors begging for attention. He went to the tent of showing them the federal allocations, internally generated revenues and other veritable sources of income. However, because the state of Osun was more or less like a civil servant dominated state, they refused to understand or reason with him and that resulted in his losing his second term bid. But when you look back at what he was able to achieve within his four years in office, hardly could any of his predecessors or successors claim to have performed better. He decried how the people allowed themselves to be short-changed and likened it to a tendency of 'turn by turn' looting adding that, that

was the reason “we seem to tolerating corruption the way we do in this country.”

He cited the example of a former President who exposed his deputy as very corrupt even though he too could not claim to be above board in this regard, yet the same deputy wants to come back as President of the nation they both looted. Many of Nigeria's leaders stole billions of dollars and siphoned it away while their former primary, secondary and tertiary schools rot away and they remain indifferent. Why must you all remain silent when you witness all this degeneracy? He implored them to summon courage and confront their leaders, once they begin to derail and deviate from positive governance that could positively impact on the people's collective interest rather than seek for individual rewards. Adeniran further said that no organized religion encourages corrupt leadership or primitive accumulation adding that even Jesus Christ and Prophet Muhammed (Peace unto Him) never preached this. So, why do we keep quiet in the face of such oppression?

According to him, “It is sheer wickedness to amass wealth and keep on imploring the congregation to wait for their own turn. It is anti-Christ as Jesus Christ always defended the weak against the strong. Some concrete issues of life should be beyond prayer as they require our practical response. He bemoaned how prayers are oftentimes, employed to make us inactive or condone oppression by always leaving everything to God. We pray before meetings, we pray after meetings, etc. The same season of prayers is always observed in all our prisons, including Ikoyi prison; yet, they engage in drug abuse including smoking of Indian hemp, sniffing of gum or fumes from pit latrine and commit more crimes, even while there. “They come out from prison more hardened after all the prayers. This is why a new approach to tangible reforms is required to birth a new nation, with one destiny under the true God of sincerity and care.”

He further stated how C-GATE is primarily aimed at turning us to freedom fighters and genuine agents of progressive and anticorruption advocates, as prayer will not turn an illiterate to a professor or a public orator, unless he/she goes back to school and acquire requisite knowledge. Mr. Debo Adeniran later apologized on behalf of Comrade Adeola Soetan, who was

supposed to deliver the next paper. He was unavoidably absent due to the health of his wife. He implored the House to accept the apology. Adeniran later introduced Mr. Ifabunmi Jonathan to speak on “Traditional Yoruba Ways of Fighting Corruption” before the advent of the British colonialists.

Mr. Ifabunmi took the gathering through the gamut of the Yoruba mores and folklore, taboos and methods of rewarding hard work and virtues as well as imposition of punishments for any infractions or untoward attitudes to serve as a deterrent to other. He gave series of examples to justify how the people of past Yoruba communities lived for honesty and with altruism never lacked while the wicked, the unjust and the deceivers always met their Waterloo, irrespective of how long.

He equally noted how the over-monetization of our lives had led to a dog-eat-dog syndrome and made us to jettison our traditional African hospitality that allowed for each to be his brother's keeper. He insisted that the result is the confusion we witness in the modern society adding that the foreign religions were brought to checkmate all that was good about our way of life so that our Arab and European colonialists would control our minds as well as our way of life. He posited that nothing was superior about their way of life as we had a more humane and caring socio-political system that discouraged exploitation and inhumanity of man to man. He thereafter concluded that, *'Honesty is still the best Policy'*.

After the music interlude, Mr. Debo Adeniran came back and enjoined all to clap in appreciation of their dedication and commitment to change for the better. He noted that, when the Europeans came and claimed that we were making human sacrifices, it was not altogether true as only the traitors or turncoats were being sacrificed to the gods after they were exposed, so as not to allow them poison the moral foundation of the community. It was forbidden to betray the collective interest at that point in time. So, the Europeans concluded based on shallow understanding of human sacrifice without considering the reason for such extreme measures which was like capital punishment. Someone that was confirmed as very corrupt by his former boss while they were in power now comes forward to tell us that he will give amnesty to those who have stolen our resources before, even when

some other countries have imposed capital punishment for such a crime. He insisted that in civilized countries, such persons would be made to establish companies for others to come and work there. He asked: “If Alamiyeseigha who was given state pardon was still alive, wouldn't he have polluted others?” But we cannot say everything here because we must take your contributions and interventions too.

A CACOL staff Mr. Nosa Uwumwose read the guidelines for setting up C-GATE units at the grassroots. He stated that there must be a minimum of 3-5 people who have been meeting regularly. There must also be minutes of such meetings after which they would be given CGATE Identity cards and a flag for recognition. CACOL's Project and Programme Officer (PPO) Mr. Ikenna Aghagbobi later added that there is no limit to the number of units that may exist in an LGA or LCDA as the more, the merrier. That the essence is to make CACOL'S Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency Educators, veritable ambassadors of accountability that would put political leaders at the grassroots on their toes by asking cogent questions and encourage them to deliver on their campaign promises. Mr. Adeniran made some additional remarks adding that some Nigerians had become so cynical that they insist that corruption could not be defeated since they live by it. He explained that there was nothing wrong in collecting monetary assistance from politicians or public office holders, but that those involved must ensure that their community association or leaders are aware of such donations adding that no strings get attached to such assistance.

Adeniran also used the occasion to shed light on the raging issue of Lagos as “No man's land” and declared that this could not be defended since some people must have first settled at the place, just like in other places of human dwelling. He insisted that his root is Iresi in Osun state even though he has been in Lagos for a long time. He said he makes sure he performs his obligation as a law abiding resident in Lagos. He also narrated that for about 12 years after CACOL's emergence, this was the first time the centre got a grant from a donor agency adding that the fund, accounted for barely 65 percent of the entire cost for the C-GATE project while CACOL had to pay the remaining part of the bill. He noted that holding regular meetings was a necessity for the work of CGATE to be successful and the fight against perennial corruption to be fully entrenched.

He explained that three vital positions that must be created in each CGATE unit are: -

- Chairman or Coordinator
- Secretary
- Treasurer

He explained that no unit would be allowed or encouraged to become too unwieldy as they would be split once there are over 20 members. He also said that once any unit could not hold a programme by itself, nearby units would be encouraged to send delegates to complement them; maybe five members from each of other units. He also remarked on the subsisting attitude of the elected local government officials that have not been cooperative adding that the situation would be appropriately addressed at the fullness of time. He harped on the unity of purpose of all and sundry to make the C-GATE initiative a desired success for overall benefits. He insisted that the immediate assignment was for the educators to go ahead and inaugurate their respective units and to make sure they give feedback to the Headquarters for notice and necessary action. He enlightened them on why CACOL as the midwifing organization, has to be kept abreast of events and invited to enable the centre contribute effectively. He shed more light on the cooperation and unity that must be the central theme of C-GATE to make it achieve its set objectives.

SYNOPSIS OF THE THIRD QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR C-GATE

CACOL's advocacy for the eradication of corruption from Nigeria's political culture through the GATE project attained an irreversible momentum during the third quarter which lasted between March 3 and June 2, 2019. More resource persons were deployed to provide participative intensive training in order to sharpen their intellectual abilities with regards to the issues involved in the anti-corruption crusade.



During this quarter, CACOL focused on capacity building, getting feedback and assessment of C-GATE units as part of its campaign to bring the grassroots into the mainstream of the anti-corruption drive in Lagos and Osun states. The speech delivered by Mr. Jonathan Ifabunmi at the Lagos Capacity Building Workshop also gave an insight into the Yoruba traditional means of fighting corruption which accentuated hard work and virtues while imposing sanctions on vices. Grassroots participants who attended the assessment and feedback lectures/ workshops held in Lagos and Osun states arrived at a consensus that the Nigerian people had been pushed to the wall by public office holders.

Leaders of C-GATE units in Lagos who attended CACOL's public presentation of Lagos Open Parliament (LOP) Five also used the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the anti-corruption campaign of the Centre. LOP Five was a chronicle of the activities of the immediate past Government in Lagos State. The book also gauged public opinion on the programmes and projects of that administration between March

2018 and February 2019. The third quarter witnessed the creation of formal C-GATE structures in many local government areas in Lagos and Osun States.

The highpoint of the quarter was the formal inauguration of 13 C-GATE units in Lagos. The criteria for inauguration of C-GATE units within the LGAS and LCDAs in Lagos State were outlined during the occasion. These include: a minimum membership of 11 persons per unit; adoption of an open door policy and Freedom to decide on what tasks to execute within their various domains. Members were also expected to exhibit exemplary and transparent behaviour in all their activities.

C-GATE units that were inaugurated include Ayobo-Ipaja, Agege and Lagos Island. Others were Coker-Aguda, Ojo, Orile- Agege, Ikorodu West, Lagos Island West and Ojo Unit Two. The inauguration event was merely symbolic as leaders of the various units received their certificates of recognition, authority banners and CACOL branded T-shirts from the Executive Chairman of CACOL Mr Debo Adeniran.

During the period under review, CACOL maintained its tempo of activities to propagate the message of grassroots mobilization as a veritable means of spreading the gospel for the anti-graft campaign.

Mr Adeniran summarized the Centre's activities during the quarter. According to him: “We had to monitor step by step the performance of the incoming government. We had to monitor the disbursement and spending of public funds. We have to speak out where wrong things were being done; we had to speak out when the roads were not fixed; we had to speak out if the public hospitals and schools were dilapidated.

“We are going to make elected political office holders our servants. We can't accept them as our masters. They cannot succeed in reducing us to the status of hewers of wood and drawers of water. They are public servants and they are supposed to render service. The service they are rendering should make it possible for everybody to enjoy good governance. The people should have access to good roads and qualitative education for their children. They should

also have access to a good health-care system and conducive market places for doing business. Security of lives and property should be guaranteed for the people. They should also have food on their tables and their children who have left school should also be employed. We want a new lease of life for the people. That is why we are doing what we are doing. That is why we have joined the people to say '*Absolute No To Corruption.*' “

In all the events that took place during the quarter, the leadership of CACOL and resource persons involved in the execution of the project enjoined Nigerians to join the fight against graft in order to save the younger generation and those yet unborn from the greed of those who have vowed to continue to loot public resources throughout their tenure in public service. The condition of Nigerian roads was cited as one of the reasons why poverty was pervasive in Nigeria. Adeniran pointed out that public highways have been neglected because the nation's leaders don't travel through them anymore adding that they usually flew to their different destinations around the country and beyond. He pointed out that a visit to different airports would reveal that many of the elites had acquired private jets, while others owned helicopters.

Participants at various events that took place during the quarter highlighted the general attitude of those who attacked families. He pointed out that most of



were from the same segment of those who died as a result of preventable diseases were from the same segment of

ts during events place quarter x-conduct 2019 elections concluded almost all were and killed poor It was also out that those who

society.

The CACOL boss drew attention to the fact that most of the policemen killed while on duty were equally part of the downtrodden as their status was comparable to that of other poor Nigerian workers. He threw a poser? “Why are we poor in the midst of plenty?” There is no doubt that members of the C-GATE units in Lagos and Osun states are committed to jailing corrupt public officers in both states. The feedback from several C-GATE units in Lagos and Osun states were also very revealing.

In Lagos State there were reports of attempts by the state and local government authorities to hijack the activities of CDCs and CDAs.

With the ongoing initiative of CACOL'S GATE Advocacy project for eradication of corruption from Nigeria's body-polity, it is safe to conclude, with the momentum attained so far, that the process is very much on course and irreversible. Meanwhile, the guiding theme remains, “**Curbing Corruption from Nigeria's Political Processes: Establishing A Grassroots Paradigm in Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency**”, during this third quarter. During same quarter under review, tempo of activities was retained to propagate a message of grassroots mobilization and participation as a means of popular ownership of the fight against corruption. This has no doubt, resulted in an uncommon zeal and enthusiasm towards the accomplishment of goals set for the project.

Within same period under review, participants that attended the assessment, feedback and other workshops organized by the Centre towards making them become 'soldiers for upholding accountability and probity in the public service' all agreed that the Nigerian people have been pushed to the wall by their leaders and other public office holders; and that there should be a limit to which they continue to surrender their backs to be ridden rough-shod by same people that are responsible for their social and economic frustration.

At the various public workshops and lectures organized by CACOL during same quarter, the Centre harped on the need for all participants to recruit more people so as to make it easier for them to track the promises of

politicians towards holding them to account after assuming office. This is why they need to take their destiny into their own hands by owning the C-GATE initiative long after the project's consummation. Though at last count, over 300, 000 people must have keyed into the scheme in both states, more still need to be done considering the many areas of neglect like: Education sector, roads, health care system, conducive market places for doing their buying and selling, security of lives and property, unemployment, skyrocketing prices of goods and services, occasioned by

TITBITS OF EVENTS WITHIN THE THIRD QUARTER

OSUN FEEDBACK WORKSHOP HELD ON, 27TH MARCH, 2019

VENUE: NUJ CONFERENCE HALL, OSOGBO, OSUN STATE

The Master of Ceremony M/C was Comrade Rufus Oyatoro, the Osun state Coordinator of CACOL, who started the day's proceedings by introducing all the invited guests and members of CDCs AND CDAs in attendance.

He welcomed and thanked the efforts that ensure that adequate exposure in a gainst corruption second average the effect



thereafter all present recapped all previous were made to the people got training and the fight corruption. regretted how has become nature to an Nigerian to that even kids

nowadays, hardly go on an errand without asking for what is in it for them. He bemoaned its effects on the nation's economy especially how it has led to the exits of large foreign companies that were employing many Nigerian youths and the dearth of domestic ones due to unfavourable investment climate it has fostered. It is also attributable to common occurrences of building collapse in the country today as inferior and inadequate materials are sourced and applied.

The first Resource person to make own remarks was Mr. Adeola Soetan, a former President of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) and President of Vanguard for Democracy (VD), who congratulated and commended the audience for their steadfastness and commitment shown so far in the training and orientation towards means of combatting corruption. He

implored them to not be weary but redouble their efforts in ensuring that corruption is completely wiped out for their children unborn to reap the benefits. He further stated that selected representatives of C-GATE who would be identified based on their discipline and commitment shall soon be invited to constitute a think tank on wiping out corruption, finally, from Nigeria. He reminded all that no politician would give One Million Naira to each vote because he/she wants to win elections. And that the highest they could offer was an amount that could be for one or two meals. Also admonished to desist from corruptive acts were the school teachers who usually send school children home to collect illegal levies for their individual benefits. He pleaded with all to shun and shame corruption for a desirable Nigeria to emerge.

Next to address the participants at the workshop was Mr. Adegboyega Otunuga, the Coordinator of Media and Publications of CACOL, who commended all for their contributions, diligence and commitment towards making CACOL's goals and objectives for C-GATE project a realizable and worthy effort. He traced the genesis of corruption in Nigeria to the coming of the colonial masters, who first disguised this as an innocent, business enterprise, only for them to begin to use 'divide and rule' tactics to scatter the unity and trust, hitherto existing amongst the various locales before they finally took direct and violent control of their affairs. He insisted that nothing could be more corrupt than this whole deception, division and subjugation of a whole race and substitution of their culture of trust and honesty with a dog eats dog tradition which Capitalism and its adjuncts of economic liberalism, etc., represent which allow them to use their natural resources for the development of their own home companies and industries. He informed that civilization did not start from the Europeans but here in Africa, through Egypt, which simply means the land of black people. He further informed that there was nothing so special or unique about the whites other than the fact they have been able to alienate and ostracize corruption from their own domains through social justice, economic rights and technology that makes it expedient that majority of corruptive acts would be discovered on time and culprits brought to book as a deterrence to others, no matter how highly placed. This is the level they have reached that has made life simpler and better for them. It is also the level we need to reach to be at peace with one

another in Nigeria.

At the turn of the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Adeniran, he recapped the journey so far since the beginning of C-GATE Project. He recalled how participants were taught how to identify, investigate and also prosecute culprits of corrupt acts during the first consultative workshop. He said this was followed up by a public lecture which took place at **White Plain Hotel**, that drew attendance from over 50, 000 (Fifty Thousand participants from different local government councils in Lagos state. He reminded that the next event was a capacity building workshop which was designed to prepare participants on how to take up state actors for the purpose of getting them to fulfill their campaign promises. He also used the occasion to remind them that the feedback workshop was designed to get them to report on what they have been able to learn and do during the training they had received so as to ascertain what they had been able to learn and do during the training they had received so far. He further harped on the steps and procedures they must take for the National Secretariat of C-GATE to visit any of the units and assess assist or intervene in their peculiar issues that may crop up, from time to time. He reminded them that the responsibility of securing a venue, refreshments and other logistics for such events would not fall on the Secretariat for such assignments.

Adeniran, reminded all that what he was required to do was a call to action as everybody would be given a copy of the document that was presented at the last workshop. He noted that corruption crimes are committed on a daily basis but it may not come to public knowledge until it is probably too late. 'Corruption is not like many other types of crimes crime like burglary, armed robbery, murder, but could be worse than all these if we didn't realize it on time, as most corrupt acts are hidden and oftentimes, get exposed only after the damage is already done.' He insisted that collective permissiveness over minor cases of graft makes corruption to fester and aggravates the situation and compounds the task of finding a solution to it.

This is why participants as teachers after all these training and workshops, must resolve to demand for accountability from government officials. He further illustrated how certain common practices that border on corruption should be discouraged to birth a new dawn. He gave examples of acts that

encourage the generation-next to imbibe corruption as a normal thing, since perception is central to everything we do. He advised that school curriculum must be reviewed to incorporate ethical virtues that promote transparency and honesty. He bemoans the lackadaisical attitude of some government workers to their official work, insisting that all these have a multiplier effects on collective output and societal re-ordering. He surmised o how hardwork and honesty still remains cherished virtues that reverberate on those who possess and cherish it while those that are used to shortchanging the system would always live to regret its absence in their character later.

Furthermore, Mr. Adeniran bemoaned how traditional approaches in disseminating anti-corruption messages have been sensationalized and that anti-corruption messages should be carefully made to communicate the negative impact of corruption rather than reinforcing a feeling of fatalism in the fight against corruption and urged for crosschecking and confirmation before dissemination of such information is done. He went ahead to advice journalists who covered the workshop `to discourage sensationalism in their reportage of events as we all stand to gain and lose, based on what we have consciously or unconsciously turned our country into. He stated how the tendency is such that 'if doing the right things is too difficult the people would naturally opt for the wrong things to do'.

This is why many prefer to bribe traffic officers rather than paying the penalties for traffic offences as they would not want to go through the agony of wasting manpower in some far away bank, get affidavit of being a normal/sane person, etc., rather than just pay their fine after on-the-spot billing and ticketing as it is done in civilized climes. He further cautioned against the practice of using anti-corruption fight to persecute political opponents and disobedience of court orders as all these are acts of corruption in their own rights.

CACOL's Programme and Projects Officer, Mr. Ikenna Aghagbobi decried a recurrent occurrence whereby, participants were raising issues that were not directly related to the purpose of the programme. He therefore reminded them of the main purpose, which is the report of what the C-GATE INITIATIVE HAS ACHIEVED at their various local councils. His

observation attracted some questions from participants like, 'Once the politicians secure power, they instantly create a barrier that makes it difficult for even the executive of the lcta and other electorate to get their grievances relayed to them, so how could such situation be reversed? How could they be asked not to cheat their people again? And even on occasions they were able to get across, their argument is always that they spent so much money to secure nomination forms and even settle party leaders and the electorate and that this money was actually borrowed with interest that would accumulate enormously if not settled on time.

This is why fighting corruption from the top seems a more effective approach, according to their observation. This position was further canvassed by Hon. Niyi Ohunsola from Ife North CDA who insisted that since most of the grand corruption emanate from the top, then the training or solution should begin with the top for appropriate result to emerge.

C-GATES ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP HELD IN LAGOS ON 17TH APRIL, 2019

The programme commenced at 11.30am with the introduction of the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran and other special guests by the M/C, Mr. Ikenna Aghagbobi.

In his opening remarks, the CACOL Boss reminded participants that the C-GATE project started since September, 2018 and was specifically designed to involve the grassroots in the fight against corruption so as to encourage change in attitude of majority Nigerians towards the scourge. He restated the position that prior to the advent of C-GATE, the anti-corruption war has been too elitist and was not percolating to the majority at lower rung of the Nigerian ladder the way it should. He insisted that for the overall result of anti-corruption war to be holistic and long-lasting, the society must at a point, own the fight since the same elites perpetrating it must belong to one community or the other. He further reiterated that the effort was to empower same rural and ordinary Nigerians to appreciate what corruption means, identify it and frontally confront those perpetrating, noting that Nigerians at

the receiving end must not wait for the same elites or ruling class to empower them in fighting their corrupt tendencies. According to him, the way out is education first, that should naturally lead to an awareness and confidence to eschew corrupt practices and disturb those perpetrating it.

Also, the CACOL Boss informed that main reason many workshops and joint partnerships were entered into by CACOL in some communities was for them to intimate the anti-corruption organization which would in turn, use it to engage those involved. He noted that such individuals would be asked why he or she was using the power entrusted unto him/her to oppress same people that put them in power and misuse their natural resources. He insisted that until such arrangement takes firm root in the country, the elected may think that the people are satisfied with their governance. This is why people say that, 'silence is consent' but when we talk in our number, then they would know we are dissatisfied with their style of governance. He enjoined them to provide record of politicians' promises/manifestoes during the last elections and peruse it with what they are doing now that they are in power by evaluating it and tracking their budget based on the training they have received from C-GATE. This is why after the feedback programme, we sent participants back to their communities to tell us more about government's presence in their various LGAs and LCDAs. He used the occasion of the programme to ask them about what they had done with the C-GATE Project and training and what difficulties they were actually facing.

Mr. Ikenna Aghagbobi used the occasion to explain the purpose of the workshop to participants. He also complained about the bad condition of some roads at FESTAC Town in Amuwo-Odofin LGA and promised he would do more investigation to find out why the affected roads were neglected.

A participant, Mr. Solarin from Coker-Aguda LCDA narrated the outcome of the meeting they had after which they collectively applied some self-help efforts on their dilapidated road which didn't last long. He stated how one of the candidates told them it would take federal government's direct intervention to repair the road permanently and that he would ensure such intervention was done once he got elected. He informed that it was one of the reasons they elected him and they are only waiting for him to settle down to

remind him of his campaign promise in that regard. Other speakers include: Mr. Victor Akorede and an unidentified speaker from Agbele, near Abule Egba in Agbado/Oke odo .

Mr. Debo Adeniran thereafter remarked that it is important that CACOL is availed with necessary documents and evidenced-based information that would enable the Centre to take up whatever corruption issues that are involved. He reiterated that such proofs are required for CACOL to use a basis of investigation and verification that would be used to take up such public official responsible for collecting funds for the roads project without any repairs effected. He noted how one of such roads at Abule Egba was mention in LOP1 which as a conduit pipe which Babatunde Fashola's government could not dispute because of the verifiable evidence advanced. He noted how the list of almost all the contracts that were awarded without any execution was published inside PM News before they were recorded inside the LOP1 and CACOL challenged anybody with a contrary view to come forward and disprove; a situation that never arose and how they were not able to challenge any of these claims in court till date. 'We discovered that several contracts for rehabilitation for roads and hospitals were awarded to same person without execution after they had collected money.

'They threatened to kill me but I am still alive after many years till date.' Adeniran reminded the gathering of the case of one Mr. Gwarzo who was the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) Director General but used his position to enrich himself and shortchange Nigerians. This happens to be same thing many of the governors are also doing with their public offices. He further bemoaned the kind of future Nigeria is building as public educational institutions now produce ill baked graduates that cannot even justify what they have supposedly learnt in schools they attended.

The Executive Chairman of CACOL restated how Governments at different levels ought to provide social services and infrastructure to the people, but are derelict because the funds that ought to be utilized for all these are being flagrantly siphoned with many of the governors still retiring at the Senate without having anything tangible to show for the turning politics to a career other than their inexplicable riches they made at the expense of the people.

Dr. Dele Seteolu of LASU, made his own contributions by explaining the Methods and Strategies for Assessing Campaign Promises. He proceeded by explaining what a typical campaign ground looked like in Nigeria. That it would have been prepared beforehand with a lot of decorations; and that there would be a musician. He asked rhetorically, what a musician was supposed to do at a place that's supposed to be a marketplace of ideas and cross examination but that the main aim was to get the people/electorate to dance their sorrow away and take to the likeness of the politician through the music supplied. He then concluded that campaign ground in Nigeria has been turned to a social event for dancing, vain speeches and innuendos unlike what was obtainable during Second Republic when the likes of Lateef Jakande contested for Lagos state governorship. He recalled how he listened

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, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim of the defunct Great Nigerian People's Party (GNPP) Mallam Aminu Kano, People's Redemption Party (PRP). He expressed the general belief then that the Second Republic was a decline in our political development, but we have realized that it was far better than what obtains today as far as our politics is concerned in Nigeria.

In describing the emerging political culture, he noted that members of each and every one of the parties were paying dues to the party to finance it. One of

such members was his own father who was a Ward leader of the party and ipso facto, a financial member. However, the situation is quite different today as members are paid to even attend meetings and rallies of their political party. This is the tragedy of our present situation as we degenerate, instead of improving on our past efforts almost at every stratum of national existence. He opined that virtually all the second Republic political parties had intellectual depth, whether neo-liberal, Welfarist or Socialist as their ideological bent. He underlined the fact that a semblance of manifestoes or campaign promises were also rendered in the last dispensation; as some promised to convoke a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) to enable Nigerians resolve their age-old differences and impediments to national cohesion and development, while others promised to allow state police for better security performance. All these have either been characterized by prevarications or outright denials since they all assumed power at different levels of governance.

This clearly shows that, it is so easy and convenient for these politicians to promise heaven and earth while they are seeking our mandate to be in office and sing a different tune immediately they secure the mandate. He bemoaned the attitude of the Executives and ordinary members of the LCDAs and LGAs who are supposed to hold the politicians in their local councils accountable by asking probing and hard questions, but instead, they have turned themselves into an extension of the ruling party in their locality. This is why those local council officials don't respect them anymore and deprive them of what should be their natural role. For instance, how many times are the exco of the lcdas contacted to make inputs into their annual budget or encouraged to review how the last budget was dispensed with? All these are the main reasons corruption is the order even at local government level. This is why this C-GATE initiative becomes germane and may be the catalyst required to wake us up from this generational slumber.

Another contributor noted how all the Lagos state LCDAs were invited by the Governor Ambode's government to a meeting on Land Use Act, but at the meeting, nobody was allowed to interject or respond to what the state government officials said. It was later some of them discovered that the state

government had actually met with their own favourites prior to the parley and instructed on what to do or say at the meeting. Such is the lopsided and unfortunate stage of our politicking today. It is also the main reason why even when protests are organized to complain about some of these arrangement and treatment, you hardly find a good number of people that would follow you since they must have been compromised, one way or the other. In most instances, the contracts for repairs/maintenance of roads, refuse collection, etc., are usually given to politicians who control the ruling party at the state level in most instances. When this is the case, how would you now expect performance or accountability from same leaders that have emerged through 'godfatherism' having being made to pledge allegiance and loyalty to certain ex office holders turned party leaders today. This is part of main cause of the noticeable degeneracy in today's brand of politics.

Mr. Debo Adeniran spoke next by congratulating and commending all that spoke before now. He remarked that essence of the workshop is to train and educate ourselves better on why democracy seems not to be yielding necessary result or dividends in the country. He noted that all that were present must have learnt one new thing or the other, including even him, as knowledge is not a prerequisite of only an individual. He advised that we should encourage self-development which attendance at meetings and other forums of this nature offers. This is because, with such vast knowledge of what is really wrong and where we are coming from, the determination and necessary tools to ask smart questions from our politicians must have been provided and internalized. This could thereafter be used to controvert the politician after he must have assumed office and failed to deliver on his promises. It is why nobody could enslave you unless you allowed him. He recalled the many hurdles and challenges CACOL faced to get to where it has reached in the country today. He restated the level of intimidation and subterfuge the anti-corruption group has faced that would have weakened and intimidated many others into giving up, but that they have weathered the storm by resisting all this and standing firm on the side of truth and Justice. He noted that there is no reason to fear death since nobody is immortal and it is better to die for what is just and noble than to live a life of a slave and someone that always compromises the truth.

Mrs. Joke Fekumo, Legal Adviser to Socio-Economic Rights And Accountability Project (SERAP) made her own contributions by applauding the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran for his contributions towards making Nigeria a better place at the risk to his own convenience life for time. She highlighted that what is even if resolution is to be better. She cited many examples of dilapidated roads in our neighbourhood which the state and local government strata have neglected since ages. Yet, they have what is called constituency budgets to fix all these roads and provide more services. This is why we need to know what they are doing or what they must have done with our constituency budgets; and where we have proofs that such funds have only gone to line their pockets, we should simply cry out through the mass media. The only thing we need to be sure of is the credibility of our information. She revealed her recent encounter with the ICPC (Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission) Chairman, Professor Owasanoye, who highlighted the commitment of his commission in tracking the abandoned constituency projects. She advised the people to personally submit petitions on some of these issues once they familiarize themselves with necessary procedures in doing that.



In addition, she recollected the case of a particular state where free education has been declared by the state government only for pupils in government schools in the state to be asked to pay N8, 500 (Eight Thousand, Five

Hundred Naira) only as fees. When the contact person tried to investigate the rationale for this, he was intimidated, harassed and beaten up. She asked how many of those present have taken the pain to even visit some of the dilapidated public schools and government hospitals to take pictorial evidences of this decay for public awareness. This is why we must all show interest and the resolve to act over corruption or we should just keep quiet and stop complaining. She agreed with an earlier statement that the oppressor is always happy when we keep quiet over our oppressed situation rather than acting on it. She equally mentioned the case of UBEC (Universal Basic Education Commission) where over N2.7bn (Two Billion, Seven Hundred Million Naira) only has been released for the construction of 5,010 (Five Thousand and Ten) classrooms across the country and how she has taken it upon herself to track the disbursement and execution of that project across the country. She recollected the efforts and boldness shown by Mr. Tunde Balogun of Ajeromi/Ifelodun CDA and how by steadfastness, he was able to get the Chairman to toe the line of honour. This requires courage and sincerity of purpose and this is why the challenge of changing our society for the better, must be a collective effort and determination. She implored all not to be intimidated or troubled by any godfather since no godfather is bigger than God.

Comrade Okechukwu Ndiribe, CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation (CRD), explained what LOP5 (Lagos Open Parliament V) tried to focus upon. He explained that it was a project of CACOL that ex-rays Governor Akinwunmi Ambode's third and fourth years in office. He stated that the book was a product of media research that spanned through March 2018 and February 2019. He noted how the outcome of the research revealed that Ambode was adjudged to have performed creditably well during the period under review. He was found to have executed so many projects in the state while his claim that it executed over 1400 (One thousand, Four Hundred) projects has not been disputed till date by anybody, noting how some of the projects were outstanding and verifiable. He went ahead to mention some of the projects, i.e. Oshodi Transport Interchange, which is almost completed, Ikeja Bus Terminal that was commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2018, etc.

In the Health sector, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was domesticated. Lagos remains the first and only state in the federation to take this loft step. If the bill to this effect is well implemented, everybody in Lagos will have the right to health. The scheme was developed to take care of the health needs of an ordinary citizen in Lagos state. The Lagos state educational policy was also reviewed to bring it in line with international standard. The administration has equally introduced free adult literacy programme, which many illiterates in the state are already keying into. The government has also invested heavily in housing.

He however noted that on the flip side, there have been some incidents of kidnapping and attacks by cultists within the period under review thus, reminding all that the period of banditry is not entirely over in Lagos state. The Freedom of Information (FOI) bill has also not been properly adhered to as Lagosians and civil society organizations still find it difficult to track what the budget outline is in Lagos state till date.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF LOP5 ON MAY 15, 2019

The occasion commenced at 11.32am with CACOL's Programme and Project Officer (PPO) Mr. Ikenna Aghagbobi (M/C) inviting the Executive Chairman, Mr. Debo Adeniran to the High Table alongside other invited guests.

Thereafter, Mr. Debo Adeniran made a few remarks by explaining the purpose for the public presentation of the book- Lagos Open Parliament Five - **An Enduring Footprint** - was for the public to know that the book was already in the public domain adding that anybody could get a copy at the centre's office. He further explained that the book was also available on CACOL's website.

He said: "It is the latest in the series we have been publishing for several years. We have deliberately given the publication this title based on our analysis of governance in Lagos in the past one year.

"We actually began publishing this series from the administration of the immediate past Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola who assumed office in 2007."

He continued: "We considered Bola Tinubu's administration as a transition administration because it took over from a military government. So, we did not expect anything more than what that administration delivered as governance. We were also aware that the Tinubu administration faced a financial quagmire as a result of the Federal Government's seizure the state's local government allocation from the federation account. This was after Tinubu had created additional 37 local council development areas in addition to the existing 20 Local Government Areas. As a result of this situation, the Tinubu administration could not execute all its projects and programmes. When he was about to leave, he chose his successor who was abatunde Raji Fashola- a bureaucrat who was perceived as not being capable to satisfy the yearnings of Lagosians." According to him, "When we noticed that he did not seem to be following the vision of Tinubu, we began to gather information about governance in Lagos. When Fashola assumed office, he promised he was going to satisfy the needs of Lagosians in terms of providing infrastructures. But along the line we discovered that he was more interested in the aesthetic rather than infrastructural development of Lagos. We drew his attention to the fact his approach to governance may not be able to put food on the table of the average Lagosians. We insisted he should invest more on roads, education and healthcare. He actually started by renovating some of the general hospitals in Lagos. But the hospitals he renovated were not adequately equipped. We also discovered that some of the public schools his administration claimed to have rehabilitated were only repainted outside while inside the classrooms were dilapidated." Adeniran said CACOL pointed out to the past administration that since most of the flowers planted along Lagos streets were imported, they were not likely to survive in Lagos since the mangrove forest which Lagos belongs to was not their natural habitat.

He continued: "We spoke to some people who were close to the government and complained to them that the Fashola administration was not meeting the expectations of Lagosians in terms of their basic needs. Some of those we spoke to were Opeyemi Bamidele, Tokunbo Afikuyomi and others."

That was when CACOL started to ask questions regarding the cost of planting these flowers. He stated, "Their response was that we were trying to

constitute ourselves into a pain on their necks. We actually became a thorn in their flesh. Our complaints were not cooked up. We told them that we had been in touch with different segments of the Lagos population. We pointed out that many roads in Lagos were filled with potholes; that government had refused to provide micro-credits to petty traders in the state.” He further stated that most of the contracts awarded by the administration were poorly executed. According to him, “We also found out that 90 percent of the contracts for execution of capital projects in Lagos were awarded to one Olowolafe. We drew the attention of the government to this and even went ahead to do an advert in the newspapers. When we were about to do a consultative workshop on the first edition of Lagos Open Parliament- where all the stakeholders were invited- we invited the Lagos State Government to come and say its own side of the story but they didn't show up.

“When we were doing our field research, we designed a questionnaire which we sent to them, but still they didn't respond. After we compiled our reports in a manuscript, we sent it to them and informed them that this was what we were about to publish. We demanded that they should respond or even complain about whatever they didn't like in the manuscript, but still they didn't respond. Finally in 2011, we published LOP One.”

The CACOL boss narrated that after the centre published the book, the state government was invited to the public presentation, but they didn't also honour our invitation. Then we sent copies of the publication to all the commissioners in the government. We expected that they would make some claims about their projects and other achievements that we were not aware of, but there was no response. We later met somebody who was close to Governor Fashola and gave him a copy of the publication to deliver to him. When the man delivered it to him, we learnt that the Governor responded by saying that he had already seen and perused the book. He said he would peruse it again and also threatened that if he found any libelous content in it, he would sue the hell out CACOL. We waited for a writ of summons from any court, but none came.”

Adeniran said CACOL interpreted this to mean that what was published inside LOP One was the truth. “We believe that governance should be

participatory. We believe that a good government should be transparent in its activities. We believe that a good government should be guided by probity; that is to say anybody who wishes could check or track what the government is doing. We told them that we were going to assert our rights to freedom of association.

“Despite the fact that the Freedom of Information Act is a law made by the federal legislature in Nigeria, we wrote to the Lagos State Government seeking information on how the Government had spent N500b in four years. Again they didn't comply. Instead, they replied that the FOI Act wasn't applicable in Lagos State. They said we didn't have the right to make enquiries about how they spent Lagos State Government's funds. They said they were not under any obligation to render account on how Lagos funds were spent. We told them that if they didn't render account to the people, the people of Lagos may rise against them.

“They thought we were planning an insurrection against them. They planned to attack us but they didn't succeed; although they waylaid us on a number of occasions.” Adeniran said CACOL made it clear to the Fashola administration that “If the questions we had raised would lead to our deaths, we were ready to die. We know that everybody shall die one day. This applies to both the killers and their victims. They were frustrated and because of that they still see us as their enemies up till now.

“If they did not do what satisfied the majority of the people, it means they did not operate a democratic government as they were elected to operate. When Fashola's tenure expired, we told him bye bye.”

The CACOL boss said the centre told the Federal Government that it could have been hoodwinked by the mass media to think that Fashola did well in Lagos State. Fashola's reply was to call us pigs. We replied him that we didn't mind wrestling with the pig as dirty as it was and that the proverbial pork meat we would get at the end of the day would be the accolades of the people.”

He stated further, “Of course, the fight still continued. We wrote to the

Federal Government, demanding that Fashola should not be appointed into the federal cabinet. “With the benefit of hindsight, if you consider how the Federal Ministry of Works, Power and Housing under the same Fashola had fared since 2015, then you would understand our position. Look at the power situation in this country today; you will realize that almost everybody is using a generator. Then when you consider the federal roads today, you will also realize that none of them is in a satisfactory condition.”

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fund that was spent on building the suspended bridge could have been enough to repair the road from Ikorodu to Epe and down to Lekki. Why do we need a suspended bridge? We considered that a white elephant project.

“At that point in time, the roads in Agege, Alimosho, Ajamgbadi and many other parts of Lagos were in a terrible state. We told them it wasn't easy for the people of the state to move about in the metropolis. The condition of Lagos roads was terrible and was affecting the commercial and economic life of the state. We said they should do all that was possible to fix the roads. We also noticed that sometimes the administration would start a road project and only tar about 500 metres and stop there. This was quite common among the roads which were perpendicular to the Lagos-Abeokuta express road. If you branch off that express road, you would notice eral roads which are like

that. Passers-by along the express road may think that an adjoining road which was tarred at the junction must have been fully tarred. But when you go inside, you would notice that only about 500 metres was tarred.”

Commenting on the performance of Lagos State Governor Akinwumi Ambode, the CACOL boss recalled that when he was campaigning, he promised Lagosians that he would satisfy their yearnings for good governance. After he completed one year in office, we distributed questionnaires across the state as part of the research we carried out to assess his performance. The people's response was that they were satisfied with Ambode's performance. They said they were satisfied with the roads network he built especially those around Okekoto- Agege, Aboru, Meiran, Command and a several other places.

“They said they were satisfied with the 'Light Up Lagos' project. They were full of praises for Ambode. At that early stage, we were still skeptical over the high rating Ambode received from the people. We thought his performance was a fluke designed to hoodwink Lagosians so that he could gain mass appeal. The outcome of that research was published in LOP Three. Before we published LOP Three, we held a consultative conference where we asked participants to suggest questions we would present to Governor Ambode. They responded and we put all these questions in a questionnaire. When we noticed that Ambode maintained the tempo of his style of governance, we distributed another set of questionnaires among residents of the state. None of the statements of approval contained in LOP Three emanated from us.” The CACOL boss said the centre continued with its research through distribution of more questionnaires which led to the publication of “LOP Four: Hitting A desirable Paradigm.”

He continued: “Our finding was that Ambode's administration represented a paradigm shift. We expected that the administration would lose steam but it did not; they continued to make progress. Members of our Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (C-GATEs) units were also consulted through questionnaires we distributed during various occasions.

“We found that almost every participant had positive things to say about the

administration. Most of what we have used in the present publication was extracted from the media. The people are actually the judge in most of our publications. This is because they are the beneficiaries of good governance and also victims of bad governance. They are in a position to compare one administration with the other. It was based on these assessments that we concluded that definitely Ambode performed well. The truth is that we felt he didn't stand a chance to perform well because he came from the same background with his predecessors in office. Worth stating is that, after he swung into action, his tempo of work never declined. But then politics came in. We now discovered that excellent performance in public office does not count in the face of bad politics. It is an anathema that good performance will not be rewarded. It is against the rule of developmental value. "He asked, "Why is it that a political party could not be proud of its performing ambassador?"

He continued: "We were confounded. Unfortunately, we didn't have the power to intervene. We don't get involved in their partisan politics. We didn't have the power to influence anything. Our position is that this Governor has done a good job. Allow him to complete all the good work he has initiated. He endeavoured to be pro-people and they rewarded him with a pariah status. It is as if merit is something that is resented. Just as if the good side of Ambode was unwanted. If based on your analysis, the government under him has done more for the people; you must consider the individual behind that achievement for recognition and not rejection. But the opposite was what we saw in Lagos. What has happened is that it would be difficult to find a selfless individual to occupy that office in future. Even if you elect somebody who means well in future, he would not serve with zeal. This is because he would believe that his performance would not be rewarded. That is not good for our polity.

"Does it mean that it is only those that would consider the interest and yearnings of politicians that would be regarded as good? That is not good for our polity. Does it mean that good people should be rewarded with a bad gesture? That is not good for our polity. How can you ignore the opinion of the majority of Lagosians over who should govern them?

"We do not have the power to influence anything but we can speak out

against injustice. Injustice to one is injustice to all. A lot of people who mean well in our society may become afraid that at the end of their tenure, they may be badly rewarded by the system in place. What do we now do as Lagosians and Nigerians?"

Adeniran advised Lagosians not be slaves to those who play politics that would only favour themselves and their cronies.

He further stated, "We are not ruling out the fact that the in-coming Governor may outdo the out-going Governor. But no matter whatever his performance may be, there would always be the feeling that his predecessor could have performed better if he was well treated. The truth is that we have to take our destiny into our own hands. We have to monitor step by step the performance of the incoming government. We have to monitor the disbursement and spending of public funds. We have to speak out where wrong things are being done. We have to speak out when the roads are not fixed. We have to speak out if the public hospitals and schools are dilapidated. We are going to make elected political office holders our servants. We can't accept them as our masters. They want to reduce us to the status of hewers of wood and drawers of water. They are public servants and they are supposed to render service. The service they are rendering should make it possible for every Lagosian to enjoy good governance.

Lagosians should have access to good roads and qualitative education for their children. They should also have access to good health-care and conducive market places for doing business. Security of lives and property and should be provided for the people. They should also have food on their table and their children who have left school should also be employed. We want a new lease of life for an average Lagosian. That is why we are doing what we are doing. That is why we have joined the people to say Absolute No To Corruption."

The CACOL boss further stated that all Lagosians should be whistleblowers adding they should be ready to confront those who are pillaging their resources.

According to him, "We should behave like complete human beings. We should not make ourselves willing tools in the hands of those who sought

political office for the purpose of pillaging our resources. We should ostracize those who are making our lives difficult. We should expose them when they acquire wealth which their legitimate earnings couldn't pay for. We should not allow them to treat us as animals. They should not ride roughshod over us. We should assert ourselves and our rights. Any human being that fails to assert his rights has made himself a lower animal and he does not deserve to be in the community of human beings.”

Next to speak was Mr. Kenneth Akali, who represented the book reviewer, Prof. Sylvester Odion-Akhaine. He reminded that he was doing the book review on behalf of Prof. Sylvester Odion-Akhaine, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Lagos State University.

His contribution went as follows: “**LOP - An Enduring Footprint**” is the fifth edition of a series which CACOL has been publishing for some years. The book is a compendium of 600 pages. The book looks at civic engagement and how can we hold our leaders accountable in terms of measuring the impact of development in Lagos State. He further stated that LOP 5 is the score-card of the activities of the Lagos State Government under Governor Akinwumi Ambode covering the period March 2018 to February 2019.

According to him, “By the time you read the book, you will get all the information it contains. But based on my review, I would say that Mr. Debo Adeniran did a good job by highlighting projects of the Lagos State Government that touched the lives of the common people. These include roads, healthcare, transportation and other infrastructure. Other aspects of governance covered by the report card include environmental management, education, agriculture, tourism, job creation, urban renewal and environment. The LOP Five covers projects in all these sectors with copious references. The purpose of the reference is to assist anybody that may want to undertake further research into this area to do so.

“When you consider the status of Lagos as a mega city, you would realize that the multi-modal transport system needs to be upgraded all the time. The waterways in Lagos were also incorporated into the transport system. The

Ambode administration also built new bus terminals to enhance free flow of traffic in the state. The expansion of the Airport Road project which was recently commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari is another landmark project. It is also a relief to residents of that part of the metropolis.

“However, the condition of the Lagos- Badagry Expressway was a sore point for the Ambode administration. It is not good for the image of both the Federal and Lagos State Governments because that road is an international highway. The reduced volume of traffic along that road one way or the other affects business in Lagos. We hope that the incoming administration would do something about the road. When you look at the pattern of traffic in Lagos, it could be nightmare.” Odion-Akhaine said the book should serve as a resource material to the in-coming administration in Lagos State. He further stated that politics affected some of Ambode's projects in Lagos adding that this included the waste disposal system.

According to him, “The book also looked at Lake Rice which was a product of collaboration between the Lagos and Kebbi State governments. The State Government was able to enhance the ability of the average Lagosian to buy rice. This is because whether we like it or not, rice has become a staple food among Nigerians. It became an opportunity for Lagosians to buy local rice which is more nutritious than imported rice. We hope that the joint venture between Lagos and Kebbi State Governments would be sustained. Although, there is still an abundance of foreign rice, LAKE Rice has been able to provide jobs for farmers and others who are involved in its production. I believe that the benefits reaped from the joint investment in rice are likely to spread to other parts of the agricultural value chain.

“One other aspect of governance in which Lagos has blazed the trail is that of providing training on new skills for youths and pupils in Lagos public schools. Apart from ICT skills, they are made to acquire additional skills in areas like carpentry, plumbing and such other trades. These are technical knowledge and skills that youth are being empowered with. This is very important because today we lack middle and low level manpower in Lagos. You may have noticed that many construction companies now rely on artisans from Benin Republic and Togo. This type of programme Lagos State Government is executing, would build an artisanal population for the state.

Even now, some construction companies have to bring in Chinese nationals to do some low level technical work which Nigerians used to do before. This programme is very innovative. It is a project other states can emulate in terms of building technical skills and entrepreneurship.”

He stated that one other project which drew attention was the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund.

According to him, “This scheme enables those who have the technical skill but lack capital to be given loans to establish their trade and start practicing. Then they must employ a minimum number of people they must train. The purpose is to ensure that after one has collected a loan to set up his trade, he should also train somebody in his own occupation. “The issue of collapsed buildings in Lagos was also addressed in the book. The way the State Government has embarked on scrutinizing buildings which are suspected to be unstable and identifying those that failed the prescribed test for demolition is commendable. This is because, if such buildings are not demolished, people would occupy them thereby exposing their lives to risk. In terms of physical planning, Lagos State Government is taking steps in the right direction. This is to avoid a repeat of the type of incident which happened in Lagos Island recently.

“Whatever happens in Lagos has a way of affecting other states nation-wide. In terms of government, the Ambode Administration is now in its final lap. “The book reviewer said the book also used the term flip sides to present some aspects of governance where it is felt that the State Government could have performed better. It is an effort to present a balanced picture to the reader. One would have expected to read more about Ambode's track record in the area of transparency in Government.”

He maintained that CACOL had done a very good job adding that if the publication is regular, those involved in development studies could use it to do a projection of development indices in Lagos State.

He went further, “The importance of this study is that it makes every government in the state accountable. The importance of producing this

compendium is that it makes everybody a stakeholder in governance. Everybody is supposed to ask questions about governance. If you think the society is not getting value for money, there are channels that could be contacted. You can even make your own input in terms of presenting a demand on what your community needs to the government. When you read and digest the content of this publication, it makes you to become more informed about governance in Lagos State. The next question that arises is what you do about the information you have acquired. You have to pass it on to others. This study could be applied to any other state in Nigeria.”

Mr. Okechukwu Ndiribe, CACOL's Coordinator for Research and Documentation, spoke next on the highlights of the book. He began by responding to a remark made by the book reviewer concerning the e-procurement policy adopted by the Lagos State Government adding that the policy was recently adopted by the Lagos State Government. “We at CACOL are still watching to see how it would be implemented. Coming back to the subject of the day, which is LOP Five, it is important to mention that this publication is summary of projects that were executed in the critical areas of governance over a period of one year. This is because; the State Government has said that it completed 1489 projects since its inception about four years ago. Such a huge number of projects can only be captured in a tome. We restricted our focus to sectors like security, agriculture, education, transportation, healthcare delivery and others. Before we embarked on the media research, we decided to find out what Lagosians want.” He continued: “We went into the field through our project called CGATE. We distributed questionnaires during some lectures and workshops we organized as part of the project. In these questionnaires, some of the questions asked went thus: ‘Were the promises made by politicians relevant to the lives of residents of your community. It was from the answers that were provided in these questionnaires that we extracted the data we have.

He continued: “For instance, if you look at the data that is on display here, you will discover that 89% of Lagosians said they identified provision of potable water as the promise that was most relevant to the community people. The data also reveals that 93 percent of Lagosians identified provision of good roads as the pledge made by political contestants which is most relevant

to the needs of their various communities. The data also showed that 66% of Lagosians said that politicians' promise of regular power supply was the most relevant to their communities. The data further showed that 85 percent of Lagosians want the youth empowerment programme promised by politicians to become a reality in their communities; that is to say the youths should be given more training to make them employable. It also means giving jobs to the youths.”

The CACOL chieftain said the centre also looked at regular payment of salaries which was endorsed by 50 percent of respondents as what they considered most desirable in the promises made by politicians. “Also, 87% of the respondents said they wanted the promise by politicians to regularly pay pension as the most relevant in their communities while 55 percent said government provision of small-scale business loans was the most desirable of the promises made by politicians during the campaign period. There is a need to highlight some of these things.”

He continued: “So if you assess Ambode in the last one year based on what Lagosians want which include good roads, potable water, houses, healthcare facilities and several other infrastructural needs, the next question that arises, is whether he provided these things. Our answer in CACOL is a resounding yes; he did to a very reasonable extent.

“In fact, he scored above average. That is not to say he achieved 100 percent in his performance. We also mentioned some areas in which the Ambode administration did not perform well. What we have done is a general assessment. For instance, everybody knows that transportation is a major sector in Lagos. Ambode invested heavily in the sector. One of his outstanding projects in the sector is the Oshodi Transport Interchange. You can see the photograph here. The next photograph is that of Ojodu-Berger Bus Stop by Lagos/Ibadan Express Road at night. You can see it is well lighted and that is part of the Light Up Lagos project. This bus stop is very important because it is the first major bus stop for travellers arriving Lagos from most parts of the country. In the past many commuters used to avoid the place at night but with the pedestrian bridge that has been erected there alongside the lights that have been provided, it is now a very lively place even late into the night.

“The next photograph is that of the Lagos State Waterways Authority. Everybody knows that Lagos is a coastal state which has several water ways. Water transportation is one of the major ways of movement in Lagos. The Ambode administration invested heavily in this aspect of transportation too. Most of our research was actually restricted to media research. The media published reports which focused on 11 key areas of governance. I need to mention that the achievement in some of these areas cannot be captured in photographs. For instance, how do you capture the achievement recorded in the security sector in pictures?

“This also applies to the education sector as you cannot capture most of what has been achieved in this sector in photographs. Some of the areas of governance that were evaluated in LOP Five are security, education, agriculture, healthcare, job creation, housing, road transportation, entertainment and tourism, physical planning and pension.

Mr. Ndiribe noted how CACOL had to do a summary of the state government's projects in order to publish the compendium. He stated that If CACOL wanted to do a detailed report they would end up publishing a tome.

Mr. Adeniran made his contributions by thanking the Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Mr. Ibrahim Magu for sending a representative to the occasion. He stated thus, “It is a good thing that you are here. I also thank the Lagos State Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General Mr. Adeniji Kazeem for also sending a representative. It means this occasion is not an entirely civil society affair. We have a representative of the Government here. We also have a representative of one the Local Governments in Lagos. It takes a lot of courage for a government official to attend an occasion like this especially given the background of the kind of treatment the head of the government is being given.

“We wish to convey our position to the Ambode Administration that it did well based on the media research we have done. CACOL does not have permanent friends or enemies. What we have observed is that his administration is like a one-eyed man in the city of the blind. Ambode's administration could have done better but the achievement CACOL has

witnessed has surpassed that of the preceding administrations. This is why CACOL is commending Ambode. If by tomorrow, we have reasons to hold a contrary about his performance while in office, we would say so.

He continued, “This is not the usual book launch, but we need money to run our organization. However, even if you fund our activities, it doesn't mean we are going to sing your praises. For instance, after the public presentation of one of our publications that gave the immediate past Lagos administration thumbs down, the same administration donated money to us.

“As I said we don't chief er here, have t e ers. If represent o f a n d that are h e r e anything they are



h a v e before, have a launch but we associa present t h e tatives CDAs CDCs present h a v e g to say free to

do so. It was the vision of the founding fathers of CACOL to keep the organization alive. We pay rent and salaries. We engage in maintenance. We move from one location to another. We work with our friends in the media. We need financial and material support. You may not give us cash. For instance, the next edition is already in the works. You could sponsor its publication. You can donate paper, photocopier or even furniture and we would accept it.”

Adeniran then formally presented LOP Five by stating, “On behalf of CACOL and all our stakeholders and Lagosians, I present LOP Five to the public for use in whatever that would make it beneficial to our society.”

Contributions from the audience: An unidentified man who spoke next congratulated CACOL for publishing LOP Five. He also commended Governor Ambode for his style of governance. He said Ambode was a man that loved the people so much.

According to him, “In the past, officials of the Kick Against Indiscipline group that was set up by the Lagos State would waylay residents crossing some of the busy roads in the state in order to extort money from them. But what Ambode's Government has done is to erect a barricade in the middle of the express ways like Ikorodu Road so that everybody would be forced to take the nearest pedestrian bridge when crossing the road.’

Fashina Adebajo from Ikorodu West LCDA spoke next. He said Ambode had left a befitting legacy adding that what he had come to realize was that the reward for hard work was more work. He also said what concerned him more was the future of his children.

Another unidentified person spoke next. He said he lived at Ayobo/Ipaja in Alimosho LGA. He said, “I think that the publication of this book is an enduring legacy by this organization. You cannot completely know what has happened in Lagos state after reading LOP Five. You have to start from LOP One. I will recommend that all of us here should endeavour to buy copies of this book.

“Our LCDA was the first Ambode visited; he inspected some roads and awarded contract for them on the same day. What happened that day was that we just woke up one morning and received a text message from our CDC Chairman that Ambode was coming. On that day, instead of arranging for him to pass through an old road in the area, we made his convoy to pass through another road where he got trapped. Right there and then, he awarded the contract for the rehabilitation of that road. The road was commissioned on Easter Monday last year. We in Ayobo/Ipaja are always proud to say our LCDA was the first Ambode visited.

“The manouevres of politicians is not our business. What we are concerned about is the achievement of the government. Sometime in the past some

people used to say Fashola was working; whenever I heard that I used to say at Victoria Island and Ikoyi. He didn't do anything for us at Ayobo/Ipaja or Alimosho LCDAs.

Another unidentified speaker spoke next. He assured CACOL that the centre would get funds from unexpected sources.

He remarked, “If Fashola could still support your organization financially despite the fact that you compiled a report they didn't like, then you can be sure you will surely get the support of well-intentioned people in the society.”

Yusuf Agboola, Chairman CDA, Orile/Agege LCDA spoke next. He thanked the Almighty God for giving him the opportunity to attend the occasion adding that this was his first time of attending CACOL's event. He said the General Secretary and some other members of his CDA had been attending the C-GATEs programme in the past.

He stated, “I have to thank CACOL for its efforts in letting the people know what is happening within government circles. I want to go down memory lane a little bit. Since around 1979, when Alhaji Lateef Jakande became Governor of Lagos State, Ambode is the only Governor who touched the lives of Lagos residents in general. Infact, within my community, we describe him as a God-Given Governor. “I want to propose that all of us who are representing the CDCs and CDAs should go back home and educate our people. I believe many political office holders have promised different things to our people without fulfilling them in the past.”

A woman spoke next; she thanked Almighty Allah for the grace he has given participants to see this day. She stated, “I want to thank God for using CACOL- which is led by Mr Debo Adeniran- to do the work they are doing. May the hands of the evil one not catch up with them. God Almighty, we call on you to continue to guard them and their household. CACOL has done very well. This book is a good reference material. You have published a book which would be available for a long time so that even our unborn children could even refer to it in the future. Since Ambode has been treated the way he

was treated, it has been historically recorded. It reminds me of what is written in one of the holy books that “let your light shine before men so that they may see the good works you have done.

“Concerning the issue of fund, I am sure the Almighty God would provide it from a source you didn't expect. Thank you very much. I need to mention that the C-GATE units that are supposed to be found in every locality would actually do wonders for us. Once the people have been educated about what to do concerning our problems, the whole problem would be solved. So, we should all go out there and form these C-GATE units.

Another unidentified speaker spoke. He called on the audience to give a round of applause to CACOL.

He said when the first edition of the LOP series was published, the attitude of the Lagos State Government was that “Let us see how far they can go”. But today, CACOL has presented to us the fifth edition of Lagos Open Parliament.

He said the essence of our agitation is about good governance. He said, “If we are not observing and pointing where those who are governing us are getting it right or wrong, it means we are not getting it right as a civil society group. W h e n t h e government is doing something wrong, CACOL is there to tell them that what you are doing is wrong; and w h e n t h e government is doing the right thing, CACOL is also there to tell the Government it is doing the right thing. But some other organizations are afraid of coming out to tell the Government where it has deviated. CACOL is not like that. We appreciate you for giving us a direction towards good governance which all of us are yearning for. We are in the struggle; the struggle will always continue as long as we don't have a good government. But if we have a good government, our struggle would be reduced if not stopped. “

Mr. Debo Adeniran spoke again by thanking everybody for their contributions. He said there was a special person who contributed so much to the publication of LOP Five.

He said, “He is our Research and Documentation Officer and his name is Jolomi Fenemigho. He works with the Coordinator for Research and

Documentation. He should come out for special recognition; he is an enigma in his own right. From his desk, he gathers all the information we need. Even when he is not in the office, he still sends information he has gathered from the internet to us. His contribution has enriched our publications. Despite the fact he has challenges with his visuals.”

SECOND FEEDBACK SESSION AND PUBLIC LECTURE HELD AT OSOGBO ON MAY 8, 2019

The Center for Anti -Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) held the C-GATE project's Second Feedback Session and the Public Lecture at Osogbo with the theme, " *Curbing Corruption In Nigeria's Political Processes Establishing A Grassroots Paradigm In Good Government , Accountability And Transparency*".

Mr. Rufus Oyatoro, CACOL's Coordinator for Osun State served as the MC of the occasion. He spoke about the need to eradicate corruption from the society. He added that children should be trained in such a way that when they come across corrupt acts, they would reject it. Oyatoro called on Prof. Tony Olusanya of Osun State University for his remarks.

Prof. Olusanya implored parents to train their children well so that they won't be corrupt when they become adults. He added that the only way in which corruption could be curbed was by teaching the young ones to condemn it.

The MC called on the Executive Chairman of CACOL, Mr. Debo Adeniran to deliver his speech. He commented on the fact that Nigerian politicians usually became masters of the citizens they are supposed to serve. He stated, "They are our servants who volunteer to serve the people wholeheartedly, but the reverse became the case when they were elected or appointed into various positions."

He stated that anything or situation the people cannot change is no longer a problem to them adding that they should face their problem now or else the problem will overwhelm them in future Furthermore, he advised the

people not to allow themselves to be fooled by politicians. He urged them not to tolerate petty corruption in any manner adding that this would help them in the fight against corruption in the society. He emphasized the call to action of the event and spoke about little things that matter. He said everything should matter to CGATE members because corruption doesn't seem harmful until it is too late adding that adequate attention should be paid to the smallest signs of corruption in public service delivery. He urged them to be prepared to demand accountability from public office holders.

The second point he made on little things that matter was that education could help to prevent corruption by fostering a culture of integrity. Anti -corruption strategies are not likely to be successful when entrenched corrupt practices are considered impossible to overcome .He said that the people should adopt the new way of life which is knowledge-based.

He suggested for new approaches to be adopted to create social incentive for collective action against corruption and advocated for a change of approach to anti -corruption messaging adding that sensation messaging desensitizes the public. He also proposed re-designing governance processes to make corruption avoidance practical adding that doing the wrong thing becomes rational, if doing the right thing is too difficult.

He also pointed out that politicizing corruption can do more harm than good. Politicizing the fight against corruption undermines public faith in anti -corruption war adding that in Nigeria, fighting corruption could be an excuse to persecute political opponents. Mr. Oyatoro made additional remarks and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Adeniran for the establishment of the C-GATE project in Osun adding that it had given them the opportunity to educate, and sensitize other people on how to tackle corruption in the society.



4TH QUARTER REPORT OF THE GATE

The formal inauguration of 13 C-GATE units in Lagos by the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership [CACOL] on June 3, 2019 was the first event of the fourth quarter.

The criteria for inauguration of C-GATE units within the LGAS and LCDAs in Lagos State, were outlined during the occasion. These include a minimum membership of 11 persons per unit and adoption of an open door policy. The C-GATE units are to decide on what tasks to execute within their various domains. Members are also expected to exhibit exemplary and transparent behaviour in all their activities.

Also, the C-GATE units that were inaugurated include: Ayobo-Ipaja, Agege and Lagos Island. Others were Coker-Aguda, Ojo, Orile- Agege, Ikorodu West, Lagos Island West and Ojo Unit Two. Despite the logistical challenges experienced during the period, CACOL continued with the execution of the Good Governance, Accountability And Transparency Education (GATE) project.

Sequel to the inauguration of the C-GATES units in Lagos, evaluation of their activities in Osun State was another major task executed during the quarter.

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since last year. Several of the units that are already active have not been

formally inaugurated. Nevertheless, a good number of them are still at their formative stages and this is associated with a lot of teething problems. Unit meetings usually afford the leaders the opportunity to remind members about the aims and objectives of the C-GATE project.

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the operational guidelines and other relevant paraphernalia of the Centre in line with the goals of the project. Many of the units chronicled promises of politicians who visited their various communities during the campaign period, prior to the last general elections.

Members in several units have also been monitoring the state of public infrastructures in their various localities and the reports are available. These reports could be found in the minutes of meetings of various C-GATE units which are attached to the Fourth Quarter Report.

It is important to note that whereas C-GATE members exhibit a lot of zeal while operating in the various LGAs and LCDAs, they have also faced challenges... One of such challenges is the general skepticism over CACOL's fight against corruption. This is a reflection of the skepticism among a section of the Nigerian population over the anti-corruption war. It is still difficult to understand why some members of the public have adopted this fatalistic attitude towards the anti-corruption war in Nigeria.

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The Fourth Quarter Report also contains the outcome of surveys which were carried out during the period by CACOL in Lagos and Osun states. The resultant data was based on the responses contained in the 800 questionnaires which were distributed to members of the public by various

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m questionnaires that were distributed among members of the public in both states were reduced to pie charts representing the state of public infrastructures in Lagos and Osun. These charts are an attempt to capture the opinion of the people with regard to the state of public infrastructures in the various LGAs and LCDAs that make up both states within the last three months.

The data, captured from respondents in both states are, indeed, revealing. Interpretation of the data indicates that several public infrastructures are still in a dilapidated state. This is more evident in Lagos State where many roads have developed pot holes since the beginning of the rainy season last June. The menace of flooding is another factor which has been confirmed to be a persistent problem in many parts of the state. This is largely traceable to the ineffective management of the state's drainage system. The presence of many blocked gutters is mainly responsible for this situation.

The data clearly reveals that supply of potable water is poor in the state. Also less than half of residents of the state have access to regular power supply.

In the housing sector, the state's performance is also poor.

The preponderance of overcrowded schools and hospitals with inadequate

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m questionnaires distributed to members of the public in Osun State seem to indicate worse results especially in the area of security. Over half of the respondents affirmed that they had been victims of a violent attack in the last one year. This is very disturbing. Apart from the data regarding the security sector, most of the others were similar to that of Lagos in several respects. For instance, many roads in the residential areas of both states are still unpaved. Associated with this is the menace of flooding which remains a threat to the people of both states during this period of the year. The problem of overcrowded schools and public medical facilities with inadequate personnel and equipment is also common to both states.

Another similarity in the data gathered from both states is in respect of industrial action embarked upon by workers in the educational and health sectors which was confirmed by respondents in both states as having occurred at least once in the last four years.

OUTCOMES & CONCLUSION OF THE C-GATE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AFTER YEAR-ONE:

As could be seen with the change in attitudes of many of the local council leaders, more emphasis is now being placed on incorporating representatives of the CDAs and CDCS in resolving on what projects to embark upon, .i.e.

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s should be prioritized or filling of gullies, potholes or refurbishment and standardization of their health care centres. Some of the state actors have also expressed their interest to attend our next phase of education and enlightenment on minimizing if not outright elimination of corruption from our society. Many of the local participants are already demonstrating the conviction that they could actually be 'soldiers' for kicking out corruption and are beginning to emphasize more on open leadership, especially as it concerns making budget inputs and tracking its implementation.

Howbeit, the task of removing the steam from the sail of corruption in our country has to be continuous and sustainable to achieve a long-lasting solution. This is because, overtime, corruption has turned to an attractive bride that many state actors used to illicitly enrich themselves. This is more reason why only the institutionalization and entrenchment of the strategies and tactics to forestall, resist, identify and extirpate it could achieve permanent victory against the scourge. CACOL as an anti-graft organization is quite abreast of the fact that corruption is better prevented as identifying and recouping its largesse could be costly and stressful. In this wise, technology and clinical use of the Whistleblower alternative commands an effective ace. This is what we have tried to achieve with the educators

and monitors we have trained and organized into a 'vigilant force' at the local level should represent.

WHAT IS NEXT?

Our next phase of the project for the second year would be to reach out to critical agencies and co-opt them into the project through training, equipment and exposure to the evils of corruption on the society and its overall chemistry. This includes: the Police, Customs, Immigration, Civil-Defence, Judicial Service, and other cognate agencies/outfits that remain adjunct in sanitizing our entire nation.

SECRETARIAT STAFF

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Okechukwu Ndiribe (CRD)	-	Coordinator, Research and Documentation
Otunuga Adegboyega	-	Coordinator, Media and Publications (CMP)
Tola Oresanwo (CAP)	-	Acting Coordinator, Admin and Programmes
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