

AN ADDRESS BY HON. AKINLOYE H. BABAJIDE, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION ACT, CAP. 131, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2000.

On behalf of Members of the House Committee on Anti-Corruption, it is with great joy I welcome you all to this Public Hearing on A Bill for An Act To Amend The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, Cap. 131, Laws Of The Federation of Nigeria, 2000 To Enhance and Strengthen The Commission's Efficiency, Provide For Forfeiture To Be Made To The Original Sources Of The Crimes and Other Related Matters. (HB 819).

As you may be aware that the Commission was inaugurated on 29th September, 2000 and mandated to generally prohibits the various perceived acts of corrupt practices arising from interactions or transactions involving public/government officials and the general public or private individuals. The Agency is also authorised to receive and investigate reports of corruption and inappropriate cases, prosecute offenders, to examine, review and enforce the correction of corruption prone system and procedures of public bodies. All these are aimed at eliminating corruption in the country.

Just as the importance of the Agency (ICPC), cannot be overemphasized in the fight against corruption in the country, the dynamism with which the enigma has taking its place is so disturbing that the need for its amendment is also very sacrosanct in order to ensure a better standing for the country in the committee of nations.

This Public Hearing arose from the need to articulate the input of stakeholders and the general public to ensure that this amendment which is aimed at improving and enhancing the performance of the Commission in the discharge

of her duties when eventually passed into law would meet the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians.

Let me digress a little by reminding us of some of the effects of corruption on a nation so that we can appreciate the importance of this exercise.

- Decline in domestic and foreign Investment
- Increased in the cost of production
- Misallocation of national resources
- Increased in inequality and promotes poverty
- Uncertainty in decision making in government
- It breeds criminals and social vices

On this note, I urge you all to give necessary contributions that will not only enhance the activities of the agency but also improve the living standard in the country.

May I therefore state that, the Committee is determined to report the Bill on time for considerations by the House and at the same time thank Hon. Edward G. Pwajok the sponsor of the Bill.

Once again, I welcome you all.

Hon. Akinloye Hazeem Babajide
Chairman, House Committee on Anti-Corruption