

Justice for All: Making a difference

Improving co-operation and co-ordination among anti-corruption agencies

Name:
Stephen Osagiede Oronsaye

Profile:
Chairman of the Presidential Committee on the Financial Action Task Force

He further said, 'We can explore sending people abroad on attachment in these areas so that by the time the law is in place we will hit the ground running.'

'I am happy that J4A is doing this ... We need to build the capacity of the anti-corruption operatives.'

Stephen Osagiede Oronsaye

The story so far:
J4A has supported targeted advocacy efforts with the National Assembly on various anti-corruption bills, including the NFIC. In an interview with Mr Oronsaye he said, 'I am happy that J4A is doing this but you will still need to do more. We need to build the capacity of operatives of anti-corruption agencies; we should not wait until this legislation is in place.'

He concluded, 'We hope that government will put in place the needed infrastructure for this so that J4A will provide the support for actualising the anti-corruption campaign.'

What happens next?
It is expected that the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Centre (NFIC) will start to function as an independent body. This will help improve financial intelligence sharing at national and international levels.

Name:
Senator Victor Rampyal Lar

Profile:
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes

The story so far:
J4A has been undertaking advocacy to key National Assembly stakeholders on the importance and relevance of the anti-corruption bills at the National Assembly.

At an advocacy event with the Chairman he said, 'J4A is taking advocacy to the next level and if we continue like this, in no time we will be back to consider the Proceeds of Crime Bill (POCA) and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT). Even though you have done a lot we will not be tired to ask for more in order to put in place the right legislations for a more robust anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria.'

What happens next?
J4A will continue to influence legislative action for the successful passage of all anti-corruption bills before the National Assembly.

'J4A is taking advocacy to the next level ... we will be back to consider the POCA and MLAT bills.'


These bills will improve the ability to fight against corruption.

Our impact reports capture the positive changes brought about by our activities. We publish a series of impact reports every six months.

For more information visit: www.j4a-nigeria.org

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Impact Report: Improving co-operation and co-ordination among anti-corruption agencies

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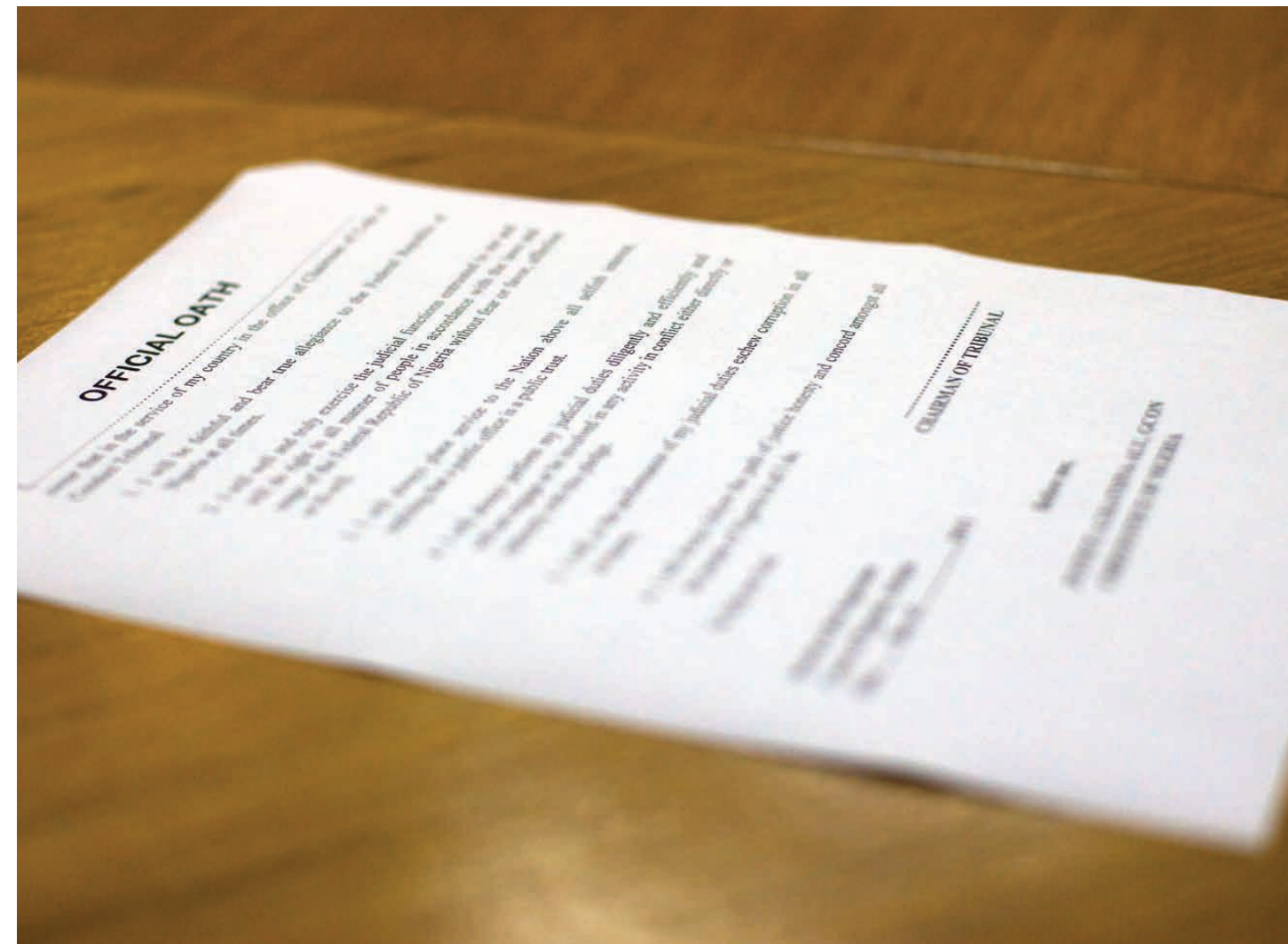


Contribution to the international effort to reduce corruption and associated financial crimes

Intervention in this area contributes to improving national and international co-operation and co-ordination among anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies (LEAs). Support here is provided to the Federal Ministry of Justice (FMOJ), targeted committees of the National Assembly (NASS), The Presidential Technical Committee on the Financial Action Task Force (PFTAF), non-state actors and other stakeholders.

Over the last reporting period, significant progress was made in the drafting of and advocating for the passage of key bills including the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Centre Bill (NFICB), the Proceeds of Crime Bill (POCA) and the Bill to Review the Money Laundering Act.

The recent passage of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Centre Bill, by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as the increased participation of Federal Ministry of Justice's (FMOJ) legislative drafters in the drafting and review of this legislation, reflects J4A's support.



Improving anti-corruption policy

J4A supported bills making progress at the National Assembly

The Justice for All programme is providing technical support to the Federal Ministry of Justice for the drafting of ten key legislative bills.

Nine of these bills have made progress to their first reading at the National Assembly while the Money Laundering and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Centre bills have been passed into law. Three of the bills are presently at their third reading in the House of Assembly.

This progress can be attributed to the technical support provided to the relevant committees of the National Assembly, which aimed to deepen their knowledge and increase their appreciation of the need for and relevance of, the passage of the bills.

Further technical and financial support was provided to the Committees on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes of the House and the Senate to hold a joint retreat to discuss, analyse and harmonise ideas and reach agreements.

Civil society organisations were also supported to make representations at the public hearings of both houses and to undertake targeted legislative advocacy to members of relevant committees of both houses.

With the progress being made, the full passage of these bills will improve the ability to fight against corruption as well as reduce the time line for the completion of criminal prosecutions, particularly in corruption cases.

'The absence of a comprehensive legal framework to deal with corruption in a holistic way has hampered the anti-graft war in Nigeria.'

Ike Udunni, Head of the Legislative Drafting Unit, FMOJ

Strengthening anti-corruption intelligence in Nigeria

In order to improve co-operation and co-ordination among the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Nigeria, the Justice for All programme supported the drafting and the passage into law of the bill for an independent Nigerian Financial Intelligence Center.

In doing this J4A sponsored the drafting process and provided support for building the capacity of civil society organisations on the advantages of the bill before the public hearings at the National Assembly. J4A also organised a retreat for the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill by the Senate and House Committees on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes. Further advocacy events for some key members of the National Assembly, who were against the bill, were also organised.

According to the Chairman of the Presidential Committee on FATF, Mr Stephen Oronsaye:

'It is pertinent to note that since November 2013, Nigeria has been disconnected from the secured web of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units due to the concerns expressed by some members of the group over the autonomy of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit. What this means is that Nigeria can neither receive nor share financial intelligence with the other 139 member countries of the Egmont Group on money laundering, terrorism financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as other related matters. More worrisome is the fact that it is happening at a time when Nigeria needs the information most, considering the challenge of terrorism confronting the country presently.'

'The passage of this bill means that the NFIC will have operational independence, autonomy, and a greater ability to provide financial intelligence to all relevant competent authorities. This will help to strengthen anti-money laundering and combat the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) measures. With the recent passage of the NFIC bill it is expected that Nigeria's membership of the Egmont Group will be reinstated.'

Getting results

Progress of the J4A supported bills Facts and figures

Bill	First reading	Second reading	Third reading	Passed
Administration of Criminal Justice Bill	X	X	X	
Whistle Blower				
Witness Protection	X			
Money Laundering	X	X	X	X
Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	X	X		
NFIC	X	X	X	X
POCA	X			
EFCC Amendment	X			
ICPC Amendment	X			
CCB Amendment	X			

Did you know?

With the recent passage of the NFIC bill it is expected that Nigeria's membership of the Egmont Group will be reinstated.

Highlights

- The NFIC bill passes in the Senate and House of Representatives.
- Other J4A supported bills make steady progress in the National Assembly.
- Civil society organisations deepen engagement with ACAs and relevant committees of the National Assembly.

Legislative advocacy yields positive results

Civil society groups play a key role in reform efforts

Civil society groups pushing for the passage of the NFIC Bill recently celebrated the success of their legislative advocacy efforts in the passage of the NFIC Bill. They expressed their deep appreciation to J4A for its support in the advocacy process.

According to the lead organisation of the group, the Media Initiative Against Violence, Injustice and Corruption, 'The passage of the bill at this time may not have been possible had J4A not intervened to support civil society.

'Apart from visits to media houses, visits to identified game changers and key stakeholders performed wonders. Out-spoken lawmakers and influential public and private individuals helped to win more souls for us and defused the tension created by the misrepresentations created by those opposed to the Bill. One of the key results of such advocacy visits was the buy-in of Hon. Nnenna Ukeje, who is not a member of the Committee but defended the bill which resulted in its eventual passage.'

'The passage of the bill... may not have been possible had J4A not intervened to support civil society.'