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26th August, 2019

His Excellency,  
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR,  
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, State  
House,  
Abuja, Nigeria.

Dear Sir,  
MY RECENT TRAVAILS AND EXPOSURE TO SECURITY  
RISKS

My travails started with my appointment as Chairman  
of the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the  
Recovery of Public Property in July 2017!

The Panel was constituted when Vice President, Prof  
Yemi Osinbajo was Acting President. He accordingly  
appointed one of his Special Assistants, Adeniran  
Gbolahan, as Secretary. Later I had a bitter

disagreement concerning whether or not the Panel should wait for mandates from the Vice President before it can commence any investigation. I was of the view that since the Panel was set up pursuant to the Recovery of Public Property (Special Provisions) Act, it should execute its mandate in accordance with the Law setting it up. This resulted in a bitter row with the Secretary to the Panel.

The Secretary enjoyed the support of the Vice President through the Deputy Chief of Staff, Ade Ipaye. Mr Ipaye sided Mr Gbolahan against me. Thereafter, Mr Ipaye wrote to me instructing me to remove "Presidential " from the name of the Panel. I disagreed with him on the grounds of procedure. I told him it was the SGF who should write such a letter.

Also I told him that since my instrument of appointment reads "Presidential",it would be inappropriate to change such without the consent of the SGF. Mr Ipaye then wrote a letter stopping an investigation of a case of contract scam reported by Nigerian Ports Authority. Then again Mr Ipaye wrote a letter to me instructing me not to investigate any case without the mandate of the Vice President.

I started getting worried over the undue interest and unwarranted interference in the affairs of the Panel. I vividly remembered how in February 2018, Mr Ipaye wrote a query to me when I started investigating a case of misappropriation of N10 Billion allegedly belonging to National Health Insurance Scheme by the Auditor General of the Federation.

In April 2018, Mr Ipaye invited me to his office and instructed me not to proceed with the investigation of some members of the National Assembly. He said he was directed to do so by the Vice President. I also remembered sometimes in January 2018 when the ADC to the Vice President stopped the investigation of a case reported against some functionaries of Akwa Ibom State.

In February 2019 Mr Ipaye wrote to me instructing me to suspend the activities of the Panel on the purported grounds that Government was reviewing its operations. He said he was acting on the directives of the Vice President. So, from the beginning, the office of the Vice President through Mr Ipaye saw the Panel as an extension of the Office of the Vice President.

I incurred their wrath because I refused to do their dictates and bidding.

When the Secretary of the Panel, Mr Gbolohan left in 2018, he was replaced by Mr Obinna Ogwuegbu , a nominee of the Vice President who started another bouts of antagonism and malice against me on the prompting of Mr Ipaye.

On or about 2nd July 2019 I invited one Mr Femi Bajomo, the Managing Director of First Hydrocarbon Nigeria Limited concerning a case of failure to pay remittances to the Federal Government for OML granted it! I got a phone call from the ADC to the Vice President suggesting that I should leave him because he is their "friend".

Also Mr Ipaye called me to exert pressure on me to release Mr Bajomo. He also sent a female staff from his office to come to my office in Asokoro extension to exert pressure on me. This was the last straw. Rumor started swirling that I would be sacked soon. I have suffered so much persecution and witch hunting because of the fact that I have carried out my assignment with patriotism, dedication,

commitment and conviction. I don't deserve this persecution and witch hunt because of my refusal to be disloyal to Mr President and allow the office of the Vice President to use the Panel to serve vested interests. The ICPC which is now being used against me is under a protege of the Vice President, Professor Bolaji Owasanoye. Professor Bolaji Owasanoye was part and parcel of the conspirators against me!

I was also persecuted by the National Assembly! The whole issue of my purported certificate forgery was masterminded by the House of Representatives to get back at me because I had the guts to initiate an investigation against some powerful Senators. I am open to any probe, but also the matters I investigate are facts against the Nigerian people and I'm not deterred. Someday Nigerians will know who their true enemies are.

I had briefed Mr President on the 13th June 2018 on all these interferences and challenges but no action was ever taken to address all the concerns raised by me. I have sent more than 20 memoranda to Mr President on achievements, mandates etc of the Panel.

The Panel was given a take off grant but it was domiciled in the Office of SGF! I never had access to the account! So I can't be accused of financial impropriety! The Panel never awarded any contract. Since 2017 the VP has made three attempts to remove me because of my resistance to interferences and meddlesomeness. Some of the major investigations the Panel has done is contained in an affidavit in support of the case. I think it is worth enumerating some of these cases.

The Panel has recovered huge over N50 Billion for the Federal Government; NEXIM Bank; Federal Mortgage Bank etc despite the fact that it is not funded, but through the personal tenacity, dedication and commitment of my humble self.

In all of it all, I strove to do my job in a dedicated and committed manner. However the most painful aspect is the hostilities I have faced ridicule and embarrassment to my person when I was being hounded and harassed without due process of being heard concerning any allegation against me. The office of the Panel was sealed on a weekend; I learnt of my suspension on air without being given an official letter in that regard in accordance with due process;

the withdrawal of my security was made (exposing me to possible attack on my life even though I was only suspended without being afforded an opportunity to know my Offence before suspension) and Sponsoring and planting of stories in the media against me to damage my character.

This is not how to remove a official occupying a sensitive position like the one I have been given. Writing of fake petitions and security reports against me to justify nefarious plans to remove me which have been hatched since 2017. Humiliating, ridiculing and embarrassing me. No opportunity made available for me to be heard.

I have held many positions before heading the Panel. I was the pioneer National Legal Adviser of the defunct Congress For Progressives Change, CPC, from January 2009 to December 2010; I was also during that period a member of the Board of Trustees; I became Deputy National Secretary from January 2011 to 31 July 2013; I was also the Lawyer to CPC throughout the period from January 2011 to 2013 and handled free of charge all cases filed by Senator Rufai Hanga to take over the Party and compromised its principles and other cases filed to ensure to scuttled

the merger of CPC with other opposition political parties.

I was Secretary and Member of the Merger Committee of CPC appointed by Mr President to negotiate the formation of APC In January 2013 ; I was the Chairman of Bayelsa APC Membership Registration Committee in January 2014; I was member of the Maiden National Convention Committee of APC constituted to organize the first National Convention of the Party in June 2014; I was a member of the APC Presidential Campaign Council on Security in 2015; I was a Member of the Legal Team of the defunct CPC that handled the Petition filed by the Party against the result of the 2011 Presidential Election; I was a member of the APC Presidential Campaign Council for Youth and Women and Intelligence & Security Directorate respectively in 2019; I was the Collation Officer of President Muhammadu Buhari Campaign Organization for Cross River State for collation of Presidential Election Results in 2019!

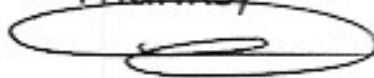
In all of these positions I carried out my assigned roles creditably and determinedly. How then can I be so humiliated?



If I have done anything wrong, I should be removed from my office but I should not be humiliated and reduced to nothing. It sends a wrong signal to me that I was given a job which merely exposed me to hatred and attack. And why should that be?

Mr President, sir, with all due respect, this is not right!

Thanks,



Chief Okoi Obono-Obla