

JOSEPH BABATUNDE AKEJU

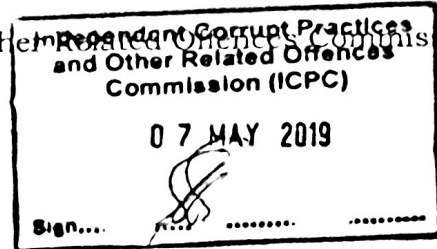
C/o Students Pye Nig Ltd
14. Oweh Street, Jibowu - Fadeyi,
Lagos

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May 5, 2019

The Chairman

Independent Corrupt Practices and Other **Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission,**
Plot 802, Zone A9,
Constitution Avenue,
Abuja



Dear Sir,

AN APPEAL TO STOP THE MASSIVE FINANCIAL MALPRACTICES AND RELATED CRIMES IN YABATECH FROM BEING CONSIGNED TO THE DUST BIN OF HISTORY

Introduction

Kindly refer to your letter reference ICPC/P/SW/970/2018 dated 31st October, 2018, which was a response to mine of 23rd August, 2018. I hereby bring to your notice the following financial crimes and other related acts of corruption in Yaba College of Technology. All attempts to draw the attention of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the College to these malpractices were either blocked or snubbed. A desperate attempt to communicate some of these malpractices to the Chairman through a publication in The Nation Newspaper of August 25, 2017, was used as the basis for dismissing me a few days to my official retirement from the College.

Specific financial malpractices and other related offences unresolved in Yaba Tech

The following are cases of unresolved financial crimes and other related offences in Yaba College of Technology which the perpetrators and their collaborators are bent to consign into oblivion.

- (i) In 2016, the College Management set up a seven-man Committee on the Review of the Audit Report on Students Accounts from 2008 to 2014. I was the chairman of that Committee. Aside myself, there were three other Chartered Accountants in that committee who are all

members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). On completion of our assignment, a sum of ₦1,682,806,539 (One billion, six hundred and eighty-two million, eight hundred and six thousand five hundred and thirty-nine naira only) college money was discovered to be unaccounted for between years 2008 to 2014.

- (ii) It was also discovered during this audit exercise that a sum of ₦682,085,447.74 (Six hundred and eighty two million, and eighty five thousand, four hundred and forty-seven naira and seventy four kobo) received for payment of CONTIS 15 in year 2006 by the college was placed in Zenith Bank Account number 1012349545 from year 2006 till year 2012. Thus, this money remained in that account for six years (generating interest into the coffers of those who hid the money there) without being used for the purpose it was meant for nor returned immediately to the Federal Government until after six years.
- (iii) There are many transactions involving movements of questionable monies in the college personnel account number 1010242958 with Zenith Bank from January 2008 to 31st December 2012.
- (iv) There is also the case of the sale of college certificates by the Registry staff in which the name of the then Registrar was mentioned as one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds of the sale of these certificates. This case was published by Sahara Reporter (an online publication) of 1st October, 2018.

Dismissal to punish me and consign the cases to oblivion

I have been insisting that these malpractices should be thoroughly investigated to recover the various sums of money looted vide the sources. Some of the suspected present and past staff of the college involved in these cases are powerful and connected. These people are responsible for my dismissal for repeatedly calling for investigations that will lead to the recovery of the loots mentioned and address the sale of the college certificates.

Consequences of allowing the cover up to be sustained

The consequences of allowing the financial rot, looting and sale of certificates to be covered up are many and disastrous to the whistleblower, the College and the nation. Some of these are:

- Discouragement of the act of whistleblowing;
- Endangering the lives of whistleblowers and family members by exposing them to ridicule and attack;
- Colossal loss of monies needed to upgrade Yaba College of Technology to the appropriate level of a modern tertiary institution;

- It will spell doom for the nation if we allow the issue of corruption and fraudulent practices to be covered up in the education sector, in particular, in tertiary institutions where future leaders are groomed;
- It will send a wrong signal to the future leaders that corruption, financial malpractices and fraudulent acts pay well in Nigeria.
- It will go against the policy of President Muhammadu Buhari's government of waging war against corruption at all levels;
- As a result of these misappropriation of the college resources, some students and staff have been lost their lives, the college is unable to create wealth and jobs for its community and is mainly depending on subventions from the government while its huge internally generated revenues are mismanaged;
- The reputation and image of the college is being eroded, making the college unable to meet its future challenges and lift the country's image and reputation.

Obstacles against thorough investigation to unearth the truth and ensure justice in the cases above

There are so many obstacles against carrying out a thorough investigation to unearth the truth and ensure justice in all aforementioned cases. These include but not limited to:

- The length of period involved in which some of the documentary evidences have either been destroyed or lost. Though a thorough investigation will still unearth the hidden facts;
- The activities of these people have been protected by powerful members of secret cults and mafia groups planted or recruited to cover the multiple frauds;
- The various report on ground which could have been used to uncover these malpractices were ignored by the Chairman of Yaba College of Technology Governing Council since he took over the chairmanship in 2017. These reports have either been consigned to oblivion or/and mutilated to the extent that observers are concluding that corruption has now been institutionalised and is massively rewarded in Yaba College of Technology.
- The dissenting voice against economic, financial and academic fraud and malpractices going on in the College was viciously silenced through dismissal originated and executed by the Chairman of the Governing Council. Under his chairmanship of Yaba College of Technology Governing Council, it is on record that I was humiliated, vilified, hunted and finally dismissed to protect and conceal the atrocities of certain past and present staff of the College.

suggested solutions and conclusion

It is only the intervention of a leading anti-corruption agency like ICPC, and its commitment and determination to succeed that can resolve the case of corruption listed above. Those involved are above the law. They are living a life of impunity. They are out of control and are highly connected to the extent that any crime committed by any of them will be concealed.

However, if the Honourable Chairman of ICPC decides to uncover these crimes, it is an achievable task. The good people of this nation, including the human rights and anti-corruption advocacy organisations will definitely back the Commission in getting to the roots of the financial and other related crimes committed in the nation's premier tertiary institution despite the acclaimed invincibility of the culprits.

The present activities of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the college are centred on the execution of a pre-planned arrangement intended to cover the various atrocities and financial crimes committed by certain past and present members of staff of the college so that these crimes will go into oblivion. This cover up has led to the institutionalisation of corruption in Yaba College of Technology.

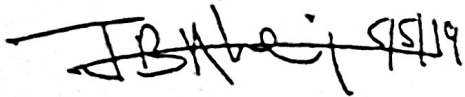
The ICPC is the last hope of saving Yaba College of Technology from the activities of corrupt staff and their collaborators.

In this regard, Chairman sir, I earnestly plead with you to investigate the allegations contained in this petition.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regard.

Thank you and God bless.

Yours faithfully,



Akeju Joseph Babatunde
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