



CONFERENCE REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME, CROSS BORDER CRIME AND ILLICIT SUBSTANCE ABUSE; 10, 11 & 12 NOVEMBER 2020



+234(0)8149444660 , +234(0)9081212881,

+234(U)9U81212881, +44(D)2D72812874 (U.K.)



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Suite B13/14 J- Plus Plaza, Jimmy Carter Street, Asokoro Abuja, F.C.T Nigeria

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Introduction

2020 was the year of Covid-19! The pandemic that grounded many of human activities as we know it, nationally and globally. The conference was for us nonetheless, an annual covenant and a campaign too encompassing and too precious to be overtaken by the pandemic!

Corruption is only one aspect of financial crime, it is arguably, as ancient as humanity. Plato (427 BC) and Aristotle (384 BC) argued that political systems and governments are all corrupt, but to a degree (*Transparency International* global *Corruption Perception Index replicates this worldview*). In the City of God, Aurelius Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354 AD) wrote, of deterioration of the human condition, manifested, he argued, in explosion of iniquities, including, 'fraud and theft and robbery'. The Christian Bible and the Muslim's Quran sermonised on bribery and corruption. 'The slogan, 'winning the war' against and 'eradication of, corruption are not only ambiguous therefore, but suggestive of *illusion*, and tantamount to campaigning at *eradication* of adultery and prostitution!

The focal point here is therefore, on *curbing* corruption, by means of ethical revolution and application of policies, structures, processes, technology etc. aimed at curbing corruption and corrupt practices.

The three day, previously two, conference was a first. The other firsts were sponsorship – venue and money! *Venue sponsored by National Institute of Police Studies and funding sponsorship by Keystone Bank plc.* To all of you and well- wishers, we say a *big thank you*. Without you there wouldn't be the 5th annual conference

Please access conference papers here: www.thewinningconference.org/conference-papers/

Tunji Aworinde CEO Forensic Insight International Ltd

5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME, CROSS BORDER CRIME AND ILLICIT SUBSTANCE ABUSE; 10, 11 & 12 NOVEMBER 2020 - REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2020 was the year of Covid-19! The global disease of death and destruction, that brought disruptions to lives and livelihoods. Grounding everything that had hitherto been taken for granted - work, sleep, travel, leisure etc.

The conference was our nation's story and our campaign, too precious to be buried in the grave of Covid-19! Knowing well that those who loot our treasury, public and private, the cyber criminals, terrorists and terrorist financiers, the cyber criminals, the human traffickers, the counterfeiters, among others, sleep and slumber not. Every crisis is exploited, seemingly, as *opportunity* for these criminaloids in peddling illicit trades!

The 2020 conference attained three laudable landmarks, namely -

- Three day conference; previously two.
- 30 Assistant Commissioners of Nigeria Police were in attendance
- Global Eminent facilitators from South Africa and UK joined the campaign. Thanks to Covid-19 and technology!
- Sponsorship Procured first ever sponsorships National Institute of Police Studies – venue; Keystone Bank – Cash. To these institutions we say thank you. Without you there wouldn't be the 5th Annual conference. And thanks also for supporting 2021 and future campaigns

Conference Theme -

The conference theme, 5th Annual Conference on Financial Crime, Cross Border Crime & Illicit Substance Abuse was representation of contemporary state of deviant behaviours in Nigeria, and organised in three part format and over three days –

- Opening Session & Ceremonies
- Plenary & Paper Presentations
- Breakout sessions

Day One - Curbing financial and cross-border crime - multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach and cross border cooperation
 Day Two - Tackling financial crime - application of technology & Innovation

Day Three - Tackling the scourge of illicit substance trafficking, abuse and rehabilitation

Working group/breakout sessions suspended. Please see part two of report for policy recommendations.

5THth ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL CRIME, CROSS BORDER CRIME AND ILLICIT SUBSTANCE ABUSE; 10, 11 & 12 NOVEMBER 2020 REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

(PART ONE)

2020 was the year of Covid-19! The global disease of death and destruction, that brought disruptions to lives and livelihoods. Grounding work, leisure, conferences and many other human activities.

The conference was our nation's story and our campaign, too precious to be buried in the grave of Covid-19! Knowing well, especially, that those who loot our treasury, public and private, the cyber criminals, terrorists and terrorism financiers, the cyber criminals, the human traffickers, the counterfeiters, among others, sleep and slumber not. Every crisis is exploited, seemingly, as *opportunity* for these criminaloids in peddling illicit trades!

Our motivation not to succumb to disruptions of Covid-19 was motivated by the bigger picture not to be silenced by the 'underworld' and the 'upperworld' of looters. The news making the rounds in global media also, of increased criminal activities, by the criminaloids; exploiting the 'opportunity' at preying on national and global desperation in search for remedies to counter the raging Covid-19 spurred us the more. This 'opportunity; led to increased related crimes - cybercrime, fraud related exploitation of government funds and international financial assistance that birthed new sources of proceeds for illicit actors. The severity of this criminal activities prompted the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) response; releasing a guidance document, 'Covid-19 – Related Money laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks and Policy Responses' to counter this menace.

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Nigeria – Global Ranking - Corruption & Illicit substance abuse

Nigeria's developmental strides of recent past, have, under various political administrations, yielded some positive outcomes. The nation is nonetheless, ranked poorly and globally on political, security, economic and social indices.

Transparency International (TI) Corruption Perception Index ranked Nigeria (2020) 148th out of 180 countries listed (2019 – 144th).

'In 2019, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released its first ever drug use survey. The results were damning... out of a population of 200 million people, UNODC found that over 14% of Nigerians aged between 15 and 64 abused drugs — more than twice the global average of 5.6%! (Aljazeera News - 2019).

These reports, affirm, arguably, poor outcomes vis-à-vis the Federal Government's anti-corruption and counter illicit substance trafficking measures and policies

'Corruption is the cancer at the heart of so many of the problems we face around the world' (Tackling Corruption Together Conference, London UK – 2016; D Cameron – former British Prime Minister); was a statement, seemingly, true of Nigeria! The financial crime, cross-border crime, terrorism and terrorism financing, electoral fraud and malpractices, illicit substance trafficking and abuse, unemployment, poverty, etc. are correlated, in some degree, to corruption and corrupt practices, economic and security challenges engulfing the nation.

This correlation is explained succinctly thus; '... The reality of effects of corruption is the socio economic threats it poses to Nigeria as a nation. *It undermines economic growth and sustainable management of resources. It breaches fundamental human rights, undermines national security, exacerbates poverty and promotes instability by diverting funds from health care, education and other basic services.* The cruel effect of corruption is inflicted on millions of Nigerians. *{Evaluation of Nigerian National Anti-Corruption strategy - Dr F Waziri-Azi, 2017}*

The Missing Gap!

The Nigerian President, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (rtd). Chair, 2018 Africa Anti-Corruption Year; asserted, in his report presented at the African Union; lamented the apathy of organised private sector, at being a missing 'key gap' in realising objectives of the 2018 campaign. Our conference aims at filling, partly, the missing

'key gap' in realizing the objectives of tackling corruption and corrupt practices in Nigeria and Africa.

We are private sector organisation, with no political, ethnic or religious affiliation. And had in the past five years joined in campaigning and capacity building, at tackling the bane of our nation, namely, Economic and Financial crime, Cross-Border Crime, including illicit substance trafficking and abuse etc., which have, together, become the cancer at the heart of many of our nation's problems.

Objectives

The conference aims at identifying common crimes and behaviours besetting Nigeria: including corruption, money laundering, abuse of political power and impunity, cybercrime, terrorism and terrorism financing, kidnapping, trafficking in illicit drugs and persons; sexual exploitation of young persons, crude oil theft, among others. These crimes threaten Nigerian economy and the wellbeing of citizens, making the country unattractive for business and investments. It would enable participants the opportunity on determining the *prevalence and patterns* of these crimes and proffer feasible technical, policy, technological solutions and innovations. The Conference theme was organized into three formats and over three days as follows -

- Opening Session & Ceremonies
- Plenary & Paper Presentations
- Working Group/Breakout Sessions

- 1 **Day One -** Curbing financial and cross-border crime is multi-disciplinary and multi-agency project and cross border cooperation
- **Keynote and welcome address** Mr Tunji Aworinde, *Two key excerpts from address*
 - i) 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men and women to do nothing' (S Mill 1847) and
 - ii) 'Our nation's problems are manmade; therefore they may be solved by man. No problem of human destiny is beyond human solution' (J F Kennedy 1963)
- Followed by goodwill messages -
 - Clerk to the National Assembly, Mr Olatunde Amos, Represented by Mr Austin Adesuro
 - Mr Abubakar Malami SAN, Attorney General and Minister of Justice represented by Mr Ahmad Minasara, Assistant Director, Department of Public Prosecutions

• Paper One - Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, Chairman, ICPC, represented by Barrister Elijah Akaakahol. Paper title 'Assessment of the efficacy of the over 13 Measures adopted in Nigeria in the fight against corruption in view of apparent escalation of corruption in the public sector"

- Paper Two Director, Legal Aid Council, represented by Dr. Kenneth O. Moses. Paper Title 'Role of the Legal Aid Council in Counter-Corruption Campaign in Nigeria'
- Lunch break 1.00 2.00 pm
- Papers Three Dr M Bala Zakari University of Portsmouth UK.

 Paper Title 'More than Law & Order Efficacy of Government Policies in tackling corruption
- Paper Four Mr Mohammed Umar Abba, Acting. Exec. Chairman, EFCC represented by Mr Eze Johnson, Paper Title 'EFCC & the Challenges of anti-corruption war in Nigeria'
- Paper Five Mr Tunji Aworinde, Paper title 'Behavioural sciences to Curbing Financial Crime, abuse and impunity'
- Breakout session suspended on account of Covid-19 protocols, please see part two for policy recommendations
- Conference adjourned at 4.30 pm

- 2 Day Two Tackling Financial Crime Technology & Innovation Solutions
- Opening address by Mr Tunji Aworinde Title 'The world would nor respect the black man or the African until Nigeria earns that respect' (Mandela is angry with Nigeria 2013).
- Followed by goodwill messages -
- Prof Itsey Sagay, Chair, PACAC represented by Mr Ishaq Sadiq
- Prof Olu Ogunsakin, DG, National Institute of Police Studies
- Paper One Mr Mummad N Nami, Chairman FIRS represented by Dr. Mrs Faozat Oguniyi, Paper Title 'In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death & taxes' (Benjamin Franklin). Evaluate this statement in view of reported prevalence of tax evasion in Nigeria...'
- Paper Two: His Excellency Dr Levi Odoe Consulate General, St Vincent
 & the Genadines Paper title 'When Judges become corrupt, the Nation fails'
- Paper Three Hon Mrs Pauline Tallen, Minister, Fed Ministry of Women
 Affairs. Paper Title 'A Critical Review of Impact of Public Sector Corruption on
 the Nigerian Child cultural, institutional and legislative Roadmap necessary
 to freeing the next generation from the scourge of corruption'
- Lunch Break 1.00 2.00 pm
- Paper Four Col Hameed Ali (rtd.) Comptroller General Nigeria Customs Service, represented by Comptroller Aminu Abbas, Paper Title 'NCIS a more effective tool in tackling cross-border crime'
- Paper Five Mr Aderinola Oloruntoye Digital Transformation Consultant Analytics world solutions. Paper Title 'Using In-Memory Technology platform to Win Fraud & Money Laundering Initiatives in Nigeria
- **Paper Six** Mr Tunji Aworinde, Paper title 'The role of professional enablers in curbing financial crime'
- Breakout session suspended on account of Covid-19 protocols, please see part two for policy recommendations
- Conference adjourned at 4.30 pm

Day Three - Tackling the scourge of illicit substance trafficking, abuse and rehabilitation

- Opening address Mr Tunji Aworinde 'Our nations problems are manmade, therefore they maybe solved by man. No problem of human destiny is beyond human solution' (J.F Kennedy 1963)
- followed by goodwill messages -
- Paper One: Gen Muhammad Marwa (rtd.). Chairman & CEO NDLEA
 Paper Title 'Nigeria & Challenges of Illicit Substance Trafficking, Abuse and Rehabilitation'
- Paper Two Mr W Ighodalo, CEO Drug Foundation Lagos. Paper Title Drug Abuse; A Public Health Approach'
- Lunch Break 1.00 2.00 pm
- Paper Three Mr Edwin Ikhuoria, Executive Director One Africa South Africa.
 Paper topic 'In its world poverty clock report, 2018, the brookings institute reported Nigeria as the new poverty capital of the world (Previously India).
 Critically assess contribution of pervasive public sector to this state of affairs and the role of NGOs in tackling corruption in the country'
- Breakout session suspended on account of Covid-19 protocols, please see part two for policy recommendations
- Closing Ceremonies
 - Presentation awards & Certificates
 - Vote of Thanks
- Conference closed at 4.30 pm

WORKING Group & Breakout Sessions (PART TWO)

Breakout session suspended on account of Covid-19 protocols. Following are summary of in-depth discussion and analysis of papers presented at plenary as follows -

- 1 Tackling public sector financial crime technology & Innovation solution
- 2 Curbing financial and cross-border crime is multi-disciplinary and, multiagency project and cross border cooperation
- 3 Tackling the scourge of illicit substance trafficking, abuse and rehabilitation

Following were key recommendations therefrom.

Tackling financial crime in the public service by using technology and innovations - It was concluded that there is an urgent need to Improve and harmonize national records/database by all agencies and organizations (NCC, NICC, banks, etc.) to enhance transparency and integrity of a national criminal database for use by the criminal justice system; law enforcement, the judiciary etc., financial services, taxpayers etc. Existing system, including the BVN, IPPI etc. should be enhanced and expanded to include all Federal, State and local governments' institutions and agencies.

- A multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach and cross-border cooperation are necessary in curbing financial crime. Multi-disciplinary approach may involve engagements of behavioural scientists, experts in law and systems, forensic accountants, etc. Multi-agency approach may involve construction of database and information platforms across agencies and institutions. Cross-border cooperation requires cross boarder sharing of intelligence and sensitive information
- 2 Tackling the scourge of illicit substance trafficking, abuse and rehabilitation of addicts. Adoption of technology at Nigerian land, sea and air borders and capacity building may curb trafficking of and distribution of illicit substance. The closure of Nigerian borders in recent past is reported to have reduced small arms and hard drug smuggling across the borders. While education and expansion of job opportunities may reduce incidence of substance abuse. The federal and state governments have responsibilities for the welfare of its citizens and allocation of more resources for rehabilitation may abate the plight of addicts.

POLICY Recommendations & Innovative Outcomes

- 1 **Technology and Capacity Building -**Technology Gadgets and equipment's in line with modern advances in science and technology need to be provided for the various agencies to vagaries of the challenges of present day and time. Strategy should be proactive rather than reactive.
- 2 **Training & Development** Training and re-training of security personnel saddled with responsibility of investigating and prosecuting cases must be prioritised and continuously. Training and development equip law enforcement officers for efficiency in the conduct of their work and morale boosting.
- Welfare Welfare of law enforcement officers needs to be revisited as a matter of urgency. The morale and motivation of the operatives are crucial giving the risky nature of their activities. The poor welfare, unfavourable service conditions and morale within the ranks and files of personnel have over time encouraged corruption as people now prefer to help themselves rather than wait for government initiatives
- 4 **Personnel** Law enforcement personnel numbers should be addressed where necessary to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency to counter financial crime and criminals. This would stem incessant delays occasioned by adjournment of cases in the courts. More hands mean fewer files are allocated and facilitate prompt investigation and prosecution of cases
- 6 Criminal Justice System The Judiciary The Judicial system needs to be overhauled with Lawyers and Judges keeping abreast of latest development in law for effectiveness in adjudicating cases and ensuring timely disposal of cases to earn the trust of citizens and law enforcement agencies.
- 6 Law Review Most of our laws have become outdated and obsolete with, in some cases, penalties that do not appear severe enough to deter criminals. Some of these laws are the heritage of our colonial past and inappropriate in these days of massive looting of the treasury and the 'yahoo yahoo boys' criminality. Consideration should also be given to translating our laws in simple English and possibly in the three major languages. A standing law review body is recommended to facilitate the modernisation of our laws over the long term.

Cooperation & Collaboration

- Inter-agency cooperation Prominent among the case made in the paper presentations were inter-agency cooperation and collaboration and elimination of inter-agency rivalry. Whether the police, NDLEA, EFCC, ICPC, armed forces, etc., all are stakeholders in counter fraud efforts and should willingly work as a team with common objective in sharing information and intelligence where necessary.
- 8 **Discipline** Lack of discipline and decorum among law enforcement personnel and government agencies and parastatals should be nipped in the bud. A general reform has become imminent with well-articulated and spelt out consequences/sanctions to rejuvenate the security agencies and the civil service at large. Officers involved in corruption or corrupt practices should be severely punished openly to deter others.
- The rule of law should permeate all areas of our national life. This is the foundation of democracy; that all men and women are created equal and endowed with inelinalable rights. That every citizen, rich or poor should be subject, equally to the law of the land
- 10 **Freedom of Information** Availability of information and support to the citizens by the security operatives is critical. The citizens should feel free to approach and make reports; seek clarifications or enquiries, etc. Harmonization of some of the services and role will help reduce administrative bottlenecks and encourage everyone to participate in the fight against financial and cross border crimes, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs, other substance abuse, tax evasion, etc.
- 11 **Religion** Nigerians are highly religious. Religious houses and members should be encouraged to live by the creed of their believes, simplicity, honesty and being positive role models in society
- 12 **Repeal laws** encouraging corruption and impunity should be repealed. Including Clause 308 of 1999 Constitution, Immunity Clause, constituency allowances provision, security votes. Cessation of government sponsorship of pilgrimage, multiple foreign exchange rates favouring the wealthy.
- 13 Cooperation and collaboration with other countries would facilitate the leveraging of international institutions and agencies in pursuing and prosecuting cross-border crime, including money laundering, people trafficking, illicit substance trafficking etc.

Passage & Review of necessary legislation

- 14 Corruption thrives under the cloak of secrecy. Governments. Federal, States and Local should fully comply and implement the International Open Data Charter, Open Data policy; including Open Government, Open Contracting, Open procurement, Open Budgeting, Open land Registry etc.
- 15 Corporate Affairs Commission to implement open legal and beneficial ownership of companies register
- 16 Review and extend the whistle-blowing policy to all levels of government and the private sector in Nigeria

Participation - Participants include the Federal Ministry of Justice, The Judiciary, Representatives from the Diplomatic Corps, The Nigerian Police, Independent Corrupt Practice Commission (ICPC), The Presidential Anti- Corruption Commission, The Nigerian Board of Customs, The Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Ladoke Akintola University, Financial Institutions, the professions, media houses, Students and National Youth Service Corps.

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Web: www.nips-gov.ng

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Suite B13/14 J- Plus Plaza,
Jimmy Carter Street,
Asokoro Abuja, F.C.T Nigeria

+234(0)8149444660, +234(0)9081212881, +44(0)2072812874 (U.K.)

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