PFIPC Scandal: ICPC Submits Interim Report to Tinubu, Recommends Prosecution of Fake "DG" Adeyemi

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, has submitted an interim report to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on its investigation into the alleged fictitious Presidential Foreign Investment Promotion Council, PFIPC, with a recommendation that its self-proclaimed Director-General be prosecuted. ICPC Chairman, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, disclosed this on Thursday after briefing the President at the Presidential Villa, exactly 30 days after Tinubu ordered a probe into the matter. According to Aliyu, preliminary findings established that Mr. Adeniyi Matthew Adeyemi was never appointed by the Federal Government or any government authority, and that PFIPC was never created by any law, executive order, or valid government instrument. "Following the interim report, it has been established that Adeniyi Adeyemi was never appointed by the Federal Government or any authority of government," he said. The ICPC boss said the appointment letter, gazette, and other documents presented by Adeyemi to support the agency's existence were "completely forged." The commission also found that PFIPC unlawfully appropriated the identity and office facilities of the defunct Presidential Economic Advisory Council, PEAC. Aliyu alleged that the office was accessed after locks were broken, enabling the suspect to operate from the premises. Investigations further revealed widespread impersonation and false representation carried out through the fake council. Aliyu disclosed that ICPC uncovered two additional fictitious agencies allegedly created by Adeyemi to expand the scheme: the FCT Investment Promotion Agency and the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency and Public Private Partnership. "The suspect allegedly used forged legislative instruments to support the creation of the agencies and open bank accounts for their operations," he said. The ICPC clarified that no federal funds were approved or disbursed to PFIPC or its operators. It also found no evidence that the fake appointment letter originated from the Presidency. However, Aliyu said weaknesses in verification procedures and inter-agency oversight created opportunities that were exploited by the suspect and his collaborators.Consequently, the commission recommended: 1. Prosecution of Adeniyi Adeyemi for forgery, impersonation and related offences. 2. Administrative sanctions against public officers whose acts of commission, omission and negligence facilitated the illegal operation of PFIPC/PEAC. 3. Institutional reforms to strengthen internal controls across Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs. "We have continued with the investigation of the activities of Mr Adeniyi Adeyemi Matthew and his collaborators so that we can unravel more and file criminal charges that can stand the test of time," Aliyu said. Special Adviser to the President on Media and Public Communications, Mr. Sunday Dare, said the President would review the report and consult further with the Attorney-General of the Federation before taking action. Dare added that all relevant agencies, including law enforcement authorities, would continue

NJC SUSPENDS 2 JUDGES, QUERIES 256 OTHERS

The National Judicial Council (NJC) has suspended two judicial officers for one year without pay over misconduct, while issuing queries to 256 Judges over performance-related concerns, as part of measures aimed at strengthening accountability and efficiency within the Nigerian Judiciary. The decisions were reached at the Council's 111th meeting chaired by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, GCON. The Council also recommended the appointment of 12 new Justices of the Court of Appeal, to fill vacancies created by retirements and elevations across the appellate court. It further recommended one candidate for appointment as a Judge of the Benue State High Court, and two candidates as Kadis of the Katsina State Sharia Court of Appeal, to enhance justice delivery. In addition, the NJC extended the appointment of Justice Ijeoma Agugua as Acting Chief Judge of Imo State for another three months to allow the completion of the process for appointing a substantive Chief Judge. The Council also reinstated Justice T. N. Nze of the Imo State Customary Court of Appeal, after reviewing fresh evidence presented in his case. The Council, however, rejected appeals filed by eight Judges of the Imo State Judiciary who had been compulsorily retired over age falsification. It held that the affected judicial officers failed to present fresh evidence, capable of justifying a reversal of the disciplinary action earlier taken against them. As part of its performance assessment, the NJC commended nine Judges for outstanding judicial output during the review period. Two judges are to receive formal commendation for delivering more than 21 considered judgements, while seven others will receive letters of appreciation for their exemplary performance on the Bench. The Council also approved the retirement of three judicial officers, including two Justices of the Court of Appeal and a Judge of the Zamfara State High Court, while expressing appreciation for their dedicated service to the Judiciary. It equally paid tribute to three judicial officers who died between December 2025 and April 2026, describing their contributions as invaluable to the administration of justice. The NJC reiterated its commitment to maintaining discipline, integrity and professionalism within the Judiciary, stressing that judicial accountability remains essential to sustaining public confidence in the courts. It noted that the latest disciplinary and administrative measures, were designed to strengthen judicial institutions and improve the quality of justice delivery across the country

PAYROLL FRAUD:

ICPC UNCOVERS 908 FAKE WORKERS, 570 IN THE POLICE

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) says it has uncovered 908 fake workers across several federal ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), in a payroll fraud that allegedly siphoned hundreds of millions of naira. The anti-graft agency said it recovered about N942 million allegedly linked to fraudulent salary payments made to the fictitious employees. According to the report Musa Aliyu, chairman of the ICPC, said the discovery followed an investigation launched by the commission in 2024 after it detected irregularities in pension payments. The commission described fake workers as individuals whose names are fraudulently inserted into government payrolls despite not being legitimate employees. Aliyu said the investigation uncovered cases where senior officials allegedly enrolled relatives and associates on payrolls and diverted the salaries for personal benefit. He said investigators found a suspect who allegedly placed the names of his wife, son and mother-in-law on the payroll while collecting the salaries of 12 other workers. According to the ICPC chairman, the probe affected at least 50 ministries, departments and agencies, with some institutions recording significantly higher numbers of fake workers than others. The Nigeria Police Force topped the list with 570 suspected fake workers. Aliyu said the National Water Resources Authority had 80 fake workers, while the federal ministry of works had 56. He added that the ministry of foreign affairs recorded 24 fake workers, while the ministry of defence had 19. The ministry of power and the ministry of industry, trade and investment had 17 fake workers each, the federal ministry of health had 15, and the office of the head of the civil service of the federation had 12. The ICPC chairman said the office of the accountant-general of the federation and the ministry of interior were also among the agencies where fake workers were uncovered. However, he did not disclose the number of affected names in those institutions as investigations continue..

Christian Killings: Nigeria hiring Lobbyists to mask insecurity — Ted Cruz

United States Senator Ted Cruz has accused the President Bola Tinubu government of hiring public relations lobbyists to mask the killing of Christians in Nigeria. Cruz expressed disappointment at Nigeria's engagement of a lobbying firm to communicate its actions on protecting Christians to the U.S. government, saying it was an attempt to deflect American concerns over the country's security crisis. Nigeria hired DCI Group, a U.S.-based public affairs and lobbying firm, in a $9 million contract in December last year. The deal came a few months after President Donald Trump designated Nigeria a 'country of particular concern'. According to the lobbying contract document filed with the U.S. Department of Justice, Aster Legal, a law firm in Kaduna State, hired the services of DCI Group on behalf of the National Security Adviser NSA, Nuhu Ribadu. U.S. lawmakers have since introduced several measures, including bills aimed at pressuring the Nigerian government to address the insecurity crisis. Cruz, who proposed the 'Nigeria Religious Freedom Accountability Act of 2025' in October, said the legislation would hold Nigerian government officials accountable for "facilitating the mass murder of Christians". He reiterated his stance in an X post on Wednesday. "Nigerian officials have created an environment that facilitates mass violence against Christians and religious minorities by imposing blasphemy and Sharia laws and looking the other way at jihadist atrocities," Cruz wrote.

"The U.S. government knows the Nigerian officials responsible for these policies, I have been pushing my bill to sanction them, and President Trump has even ordered military action. "Instead of responding to American concerns, Nigerian officials waged a public relations campaign against critics. They were confident in that campaign and in their ability to continue the status quo, and I am heartened that the House has just definitively proven them wrong." Cruz was reacting to an amendment bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that would increase the withholding of assistance to Nigeria from 50 per cent to 100 per cent until the country takes effective steps to prevent and respond to violence within its territory. Lawmakers approved the move by voice vote last Wednesday. Chris Smith, House Foreign Affairs Africa subcommittee chairman, also criticized Nigeria's lobbying efforts, saying the deals proved that "a culture of denial by Nigerian officials persists." The same month Nigeria hired DCI Group, Matthew Tonlagha, vice-chairman of Tantita Security Services, hired Valcour Global Public Strategy, a Washington-based lobbying firm, for the "purpose of strengthening the bilateral relationship" between the U.S. and Nigeria.

2027: Candidates Sign Peace Accord as Campaign Begins

Presidential candidates and party leaders contesting Nigeria's 2027 general elections signed a Peace Accord in Abuja on Tuesday, pledging to run peaceful, issue-based campaigns and reject violence before, during and after the polls. Signatories included President Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress, represented by Secretary to the Government of the Federation George Akume; Peter Obi of the Nigeria Democratic Congress; and Adewale Adebayo of the Social Democratic Party. Organised by the National Peace Committee, chaired by Gen. Abdulsalami

Abubakar, the agreement seeks to promote social cohesion, reduce political tension and ensure election outcomes reflect voters' choices. Represented by committee member Martin Agwai, Abubakar urged candidates, parties, campaign councils and spokespersons to focus on issues affecting Nigerians. He said the committee had facilitated 30 peace accords since 2015, comprising five national and 25 subnational agreements, including off-cycle elections. Abubakar lamented that campaigns had increasingly abandoned manifestos and policy debates for name-calling, personal attacks and character assassination. Such conduct, he warned, had eroded civility in public discourse and created a toxic atmosphere capable of inciting citizens against opponents. With official campaigns beginning Wednesday, he appealed to stakeholders to reject fake news, incitement, insults and abuse while promoting tolerance, decency and respect for opposing views. Asabe Ndahi, Programme Officer at the Kukah Centre, presented findings from previous electoral cycles showing widespread violations of peace accords. She said the commitment to issue-based campaigning recorded a 43 per cent breach, while provisions against fake news and disinformation were violated by up to 90 per cent. Spokespersons accounted for 58 per cent of campaign-conduct violations. Ndahi said breaches occurred in 32 of Nigeria's 36 states, with Kaduna, Plateau, Kano, Lagos, Rivers and Benue among the most affected. She urged candidates and supporters to campaign responsibly, debate policies and avoid violence or intimidation. Spokespersons should use verified information and avoid inflammatory statements, while the media and civil society organizations should verify claims before amplifying them. She also called on security agencies and the Independent National Electoral Commission to remain neutral, transparent and consistent in enforcing electoral laws, while urging Nigerians to remain peaceful throughout election period.

ECOWAS Targets $294bn Climate Finance Gap, moves to Unlock West Africa's Carbon Market Potential

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has stepped up efforts to establish a regional carbon market platform as the bloc seeks to bridge a $294 billion climate-finance gap and unlock West Africa's vast potential in international carbon markets. The move took centre stage in Abuja at a three-day regional workshop convened to validate the framework for establishing the platform, bringing together representatives of ECOWAS Member States, regional and international organizations, technical and financial partners and climate experts. Speaking on behalf of the ECOWAS Commission leadership, a representative of the Commission, the Director for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Christophe Deguenon, conveyed greetings from the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Omar Alieu Touray, and the Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, Kalilou Sylla, while expressing appreciation to Nigeria for its continued support for regional climate initiatives. The ECOWAS representative said the urgency of the initiative was underscored by the growing vulnerability of West Africa to climate change, warning that rising temperatures, climate-induced displacement and environmental degradation were threatening livelihoods and economic development across the region. According to the ECOWAS presentation, temperatures in West Africa could rise by between 1.5°C and 3°C by 2050, based on projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The World Bank, it added, estimates that nearly 32 million people could be forced into internal displacement as a result of climate impacts.

The representative noted that, in response to the crisis and the global goal of limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C, ECOWAS Member States had adopted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), progressively increasing their climate-mitigation ambitions through successive reporting cycles. But as national ambitions increase, so too does the amount of financing required to implement them. The ECOWAS representative disclosed that the bloc's Regional Strategy for Access to and Mobilization of Climate Finance, adopted in 2022, had estimated the region's financing requirements at $294 billion, based on conditional needs contained in the Member States' second-generation NDCs. “Four years later, with the submission of NDCs 3.0, these needs have significantly increased,” the representative said, attributing the rise to stronger national climate ambitions and the growing urgency to mobilize climate finance at scale. The regional climate-finance strategy had identified the establishment of a regional framework for the operationalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as one avenue for addressing the financing deficit. The ECOWAS representative said the framework would help West African countries leverage their enormous environmental assets through carbon markets and attract additional resources for climate action. West Africa, according to the Commission, possesses significant natural capital capable of generating high-integrity environmental and social carbon credits. This includes more than 350 million hectares of agricultural land, major forest blocks and mangrove ecosystems, as well as enormous opportunities for restoring degraded landscapes. The Commission, however, acknowledged that the region has yet to fully exploit these opportunities. Despite its considerable carbon-market potential, West Africa remains insufficiently active in international carbon markets, with regulatory weaknesses, limited technical capacity, inadequate tracking systems and certification challenges continuing to constrain participation. It was against this backdrop that the ECOWAS Commission launched an ambitious regional process in 2024 to develop a harmonized framework for establishing a regional carbon market platform.

The initiative is aligned with the ECOWAS Vision 2050 and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The proposed platform will be built around four key principles: transparency, environmental integrity, inclusive governance and the valuation of Member States' climate efforts.