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AGF restates FG's zero tolerance for corruption

Written by Bukola Ojeme
Wednesday, 13 August 2008

ATTORNEY General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Michael Aondoakaa (SAN) restated yesterday the commitment of the Federal Government to the fight against corruption and economic crimes, insisting on government desire to achieve zero tolerance.

He spoke in Abuja during the Commissioning of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Data and Technology Centre.

The Attorney General of the Federation who described the inauguration of the centre, as a significance sign of the determination of the administration of President Umaru Yar'Adua to stamp out corruption, however stressed that, the current administration would not employ unconstitutional means to fight the war against corruption.

Said he, "As an administration anchored on the Rule of Law, we desire to achieve zero tolerance for corruption by prosecuting the war on corruption within the ambit of the law. We can fight this crime and enforce the law within the ambit of our constitution.

Aondoakaa emphasized further that, the success of the war against corruption would determine the future of Nigeria, in her march to becoming one of the 20 most industrialized nations in 2020.

According to him, "If we must take our proper place as a nation, we must without delay do away with this evil. We cannot attain our vision of being one of the greatest 20 economies in the world by 2020 if we don't do away with corruption. Our commitment to the eradication of corruption is therefore total.

In her remarks, the Chairman of the EFCC, Mrs Farida Waziri acknowledged the support of the European union and other donor agencies for the establishment of the Centre in particular and in the work of the Commission.

The antigraft boss, noted further that, the EU has been consistent in its support for the Commission, saying, "I make bold to say clearly that their support has been total, unqualified and unconditional.

"The data centre commissioning illustrates clearly and in concrete terms what the cooperation between the commission and the development partners present here can achieve" she added.

The Head of European Commission delegation, Mr Denis Thieulin, in his remarks said the EC, "is proud to be associated with the hardwork and successes of the EFCC in the fight against corruption. Corruption has not only undermined the capacity of Nigeria to utilize its enormous resources to uplift the lives of its people, it has also badly affected its image in the eyes of foreign investors

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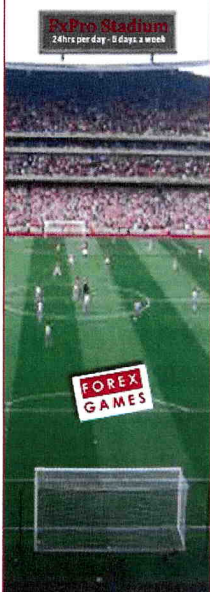
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