ANTH CORRUPTION

Advancing Towards a National Strategy to Combat Corruption

A key challenge in Nigeria’s fight against corruption is the existence of overlapping anti-corruption functions within multiple and operationally diverse institutions that seldom interface to coordinate policies and operations. In response, in 2009 the Federal Government of Nigeria mandated the Inter-Agency Task Team on Anti-Corruption (IATT) to develop a holistic strategy to combat corruption. On 7 April, at a meeting chaired by Prof. Humphrey Asovie, Chairman of NEITI and the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Daouda Toure, the Heads of various anti-corruption agencies endorsed the draft strategy and mandated the Secretariat of the IATT to submit the same to the Federal Government for adoption. On 29 April the strategy was presented to the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation. The Minister expressed his deep appreciation to the members of the IATT as well as to UNDP and UNODC for their unwavering support in the development of the strategy and committed to submit the document to the Federal Executive Council for its consideration. The strategy, if adopted, will provide a major breakthrough in enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the fight against corruption in line with the requirements of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

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ANTH HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Enhancing NAPTIP’s ICT Capacity

On 20 April, UNODC handed over ICT equipment worth over 5 million Naira to NAPTIP as part of an ongoing UNODC project on “Capacity Building for NAPTIP’s Implementation of the Action Plan against Human Trafficking” which is funded by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and Norway. The equipment will help increase NAPTIP’s zonal offices operational capacities and communication capability; establish quicker more efficient linkages between NAPTIP’s National Monitoring Centre and its zonal offices thereby improving information exchange, knowledge management and coordination of its various activities said UNODC’s Country Representative a.i., Mr. Oliver Stolpe. Mr. Markus Probst and Mr. Tor Magnus from the Swiss and Norwegian Embassies respectively, pledged their continued cooperation with the Government of Nigeria in curbing the trafficking of persons in Nigeria. Receiving the equipment on behalf of NAPTIP the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Mr. Simon Chuzu Egede, Esq. thanked the international development partners for their support and acknowledged the role that UNODC is playing in strengthening NAPTIP’s capacity.

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UNODC Provides Support to BPP

With the vision of ensuring efficient and integrity-based monitoring of the implementation of all Federal Government capital projects, the Nigerian Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) engaged UNODC through the ITS unit in September 2010 to provide technical solution to current and foreseen future needs of BPP. The main objective of the project is the deployment of a Databank Management System to assist BPP ensure strict compliance with openness, competition and cost accuracy rules and procedures that would guide the award of contracts within Nigeria. A phased approach has been adopted in the project’s implementation with specific focus on the special environment requirements in terms of infrastructure availability in BPP. The project has three main deliverables, namely: ICT infrastructure, software systems, and training. So far, the ICT infrastructure has been successfully deployed while operations and training of Staff is ongoing to ensure optimal utilization and knowledge transfer.

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News in Brief

The Dutch funded project “Promoting Ethics and Transparency in Business Transactions in Nigeria” was closed on 30 April. The three year project has inter alia established open channels of regular interactions between the private and public sector, developed and endorsed Principles for the Ethical Conduct of Business in Nigeria, conducted a risk assessment for the customs and for the transport sector, and conceptualized a public feedback mechanism to collect corruption related complaints/reports.

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Upcoming Events in May 2011:

16 - 20 May
Roll out training for senior managers in Port Harcourt prison

16 - 18 May
Training of police prosecutors and investigators on case management in Bayelsa State

17 – 18 May
Bayelsa state Working Group Meeting on Expenditure and Income Transparency

25 May
Delta State anti-human trafficking town hall meeting

26-27 May
Sensitization workshop on human trafficking for opinion makers, traditional rulers and religious leaders in Delta State

31 May – 1 June
Justice Sector Assessment Methodology Workshop