



**INNOVATIONS BY ANTI-CORRUPTION  
AGENCIES IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION  
USING THE EDUCATION SECTOR  
– AN ICPC NIGERIA PERSPECTIVE  
21-23 August 2017**



Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the  
Prevention of Corruption, Vienna, 21-23 August 2017 on  
Education in Schools and universities on anti-corruption  
efforts (article 13, paragraph 1(c) of UNCAC)

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In looking at “good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption thematic discussion on education **in schools and universities on anti-corruption Efforts** (article 13, paragraph 1(c) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption)” focus would be paid on the major role played by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and other Anti-corruption Agencies in Nigeria.

### 1.2 Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)

1.2.1 This is an Anti-corruption Agency established by the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission Act 2000. The mandate is to:

- to receive and investigate reports of corruption and in appropriate cases prosecute the offender[s],
- to examine, review and enforce the correction of corruption prone systems and procedures of public bodies, with a view to eliminating corruption in public life, and
- to educate and enlighten the public on and against corruption and related offences with a view to enlisting and fostering public support for the fight against corruption.

#### 1.2.2 Other Relevant Anti-corruption Agencies:

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was set up in 2004 to combat economic and financial crimes in the area of money laundering

and terrorist financing; and the Code of Conduct Bureau/Tribunal which is a constitutional body that deals with the declaration of assets by public office holders.

### 1.3 Rationale for Intervention:

The rationale for intervening in the education sector at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education is summarised as follows:

- Education is central to corruption prevention and no nation rises above its level of education.
- Education empowers citizens' ability to actively participate and demand accountability from government and institutions.
- Attitudes and expectations of citizens, especially operators of the system, are crucial in building a responsive public administration.

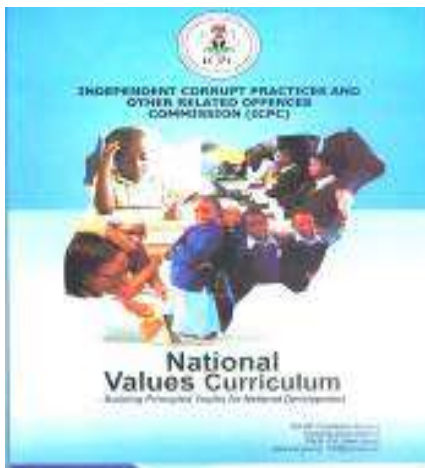
1.4 Accordingly, Nigeria has initiated a number of prevention initiatives and interventions in the sector to enable it achieve expected national goals and meet international best practices.

1.5 Nigeria's intervention report is presented in three segments to cover interventions at: primary & secondary school Levels, tertiary levels with special emphasis on Universities, and post-tertiary levels and non-formal youth sector.

## 2.0 PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS:

### 2.1 National Values Curriculum (NVC):

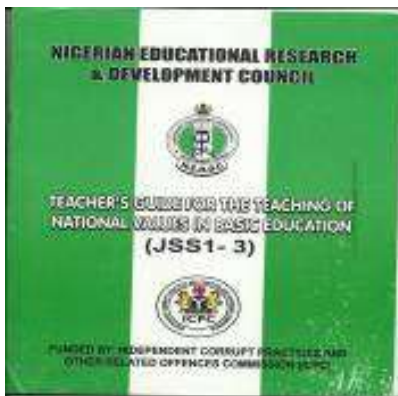
We have over the past ten years implemented a National Values Curriculum



which has 12 thematic areas dealing with honesty, right attitude to work, citizen's rights, courage, contentment, National consciousness, concern for the right of others, etc. which are embedded in various school subjects.

### 2.2 National Values Curriculum (NVC) Teacher's Guide:

To further enhance the National Values Curriculum, Nigeria in 2013



introduced a Teacher's Guide for the teaching of the National Values Curriculum for primary, secondary school teachers and student-teachers in the Colleges of Education and Faculties of Education in Universities.

2.3 Other ICPC initiatives involve the following interactive sessions:

2.3.1 Delegations of school children are encouraged to visit the Commission on



excursion as recommended by the National Values Curriculum to learn more from our Education

Department anti-corruption practitioners.

2.3.2 Partnerships with proprietors of both public and private primary and secondary schools and National Associations of Parents and Teachers.

2.3.3 Provision of part-funding support to assist primary and secondary schools establish Student Integrity Clubs and also encourage organising inter-school competitions quiz and debate that promote ideals of NVC.

2.3.3 Mentorship Visits by senior citizens (with good records) to their alma mater



especially at the primary school level to interact as role models.

In the picture above the Chairman of ICPC visited his primary school: St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Molete, Ibadan, Nigeria after 47 years in 2013.

#### 2.4 Corruption Risk Assessments of Primary Education-Sector Bodies

2.4.1 The ICPC in partnership with other stakeholders had undertaken a Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) of specific Ministries of Health, Water Resources and Education with support from the UNDP.

<http://icpc.gov.ng/download/4575/>

2.4.2 Under the Education Sector it focused on the Universal Basic Education Commission [UBEC]. UBEC is a critical Federal Agency charged with the responsibility of formulating policy guidelines on basic education, receives block financial grants and shares same with the State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs). It also approves and prescribes minimum standards for Primary education and ensures effective monitoring of these standards.

2.4.3 The CRA report revealed inadequacies in the policies and systems of UBEC such as poor coordination amongst tiers of government, lack of effective system for verification of contractors and certification of performance.

2.4.4 Part of the outcomes is the development of the Integrity Plan which is being implemented at Federal, State and Local Government levels.

### **3.0 INTERVENTION AT THE TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVEL**

The National University Commission (NUC), the Federal Government umbrella organization that oversees the administration of University education in Nigeria, listed 152 Universities made up of 40 Federal universities, 44 State universities and 68 private universities as accredited degree-granting institutions on its website as of 2017. See the following web sites:

<http://wenr.wes.org/2017/03/education-in-nigeria> and [Nigeria's National Universities Commission](#). Nigeria has developed the following interventions at the tertiary level:

#### **3.1 Interaction with Students in Universities.**

- 3.1.1 Hundreds of Student Anticorruption Vanguard (SAVs) have been set up to promote non-violent options in dealing with incidents of corruption or corruption-prone processes on university campuses.
- 3.1.2 ICPC holds regular public meetings with National Associations of University and Polytechnic Students and other Stake-holders in tertiary institutions to review corruption-prone processes on their campuses.
- 3.1.3 These groups are encouraged to contact ICPC and other relevant Agencies through email and toll-free line if they are not satisfied with in-house options to resolve contending issues.

### 3.2 Interactive Visits to Universities



ICPC has structured interactive all-embracing visits to various tertiary Institutions across the country to encourage and sustain youth participation in the anti-corruption crusade and to also listen to their contributions. In the picture above the ICPC Chairman interacts with the management, staff and students of the University of Ibadan.

#### 3.2.1 Teaching Corruption Studies in the Universities

As a result of a 2012 agreement between ICPC and a number of Universities, many have commenced the teaching of anti-corruption modules at the undergraduate and graduate levels using the **Academic Initiative** online curriculum developed by UNODC. See the following: <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/uniben-ui-to-begin-courses-in-corruption-studies/> and <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/war-against-corruption-gets-to-schools-2> .



### 3.2.2 University Establishes Center for Corruption Studies

The University of Abuja, Nigeria has established a Centre for Corruption Studies (CSS) and in 2016 admitted its pioneer graduate M.Sc. candidates. According to the university it set-up CSS to “...help address one of the critical gaps and weakest link on corruption by solely devoting itself to rigorous intellectual and practical study of the phenomenon. . . “.

<https://www.uniabuja.edu.ng/academics/institutes-centres/centre-for-corruption-studies>

The CSS partners with the Anti-corruption Agencies in Nigeria for practical experience segments. In 2013 the Centre then known as an Institute of Corruption Studies collaborated with ICPC to publish a **Journal of Corruption Studies**.

### 3.2.3 Symposia, Debates, and other sponsored Activities in Universities

Annual interventions occur through symposia, support for outstanding anti-corruption dissertations by post-graduate students in the Universities, competitions, etc. For example, ICPC co-sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> All Nigeria Universities Debate Championship which had as its theme: *Corruption, Insecurity and National Development* and also participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Universities Debate Championship which debated on *Conflict, Insecurity and Good Governance in Africa*. All these debates were hosted by the University of Calabar, Nigeria.

<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/.../8850-debating-solutions-to-nigeria-s-ills> [theeagleonline.com.ng/unical-icpc-organize-all-nigeria-](http://theeagleonline.com.ng/unical-icpc-organize-all-nigeria-)

[universities-debate/icpc.gov.ng/wp-content/.../6th-Pan-African-Universities-Debate-Championship.doc](http://universities-debate/icpc.gov.ng/wp-content/.../6th-Pan-African-Universities-Debate-Championship.doc)

### 3.3 System Study & Review of Corruption-Prone Processes in Nigerian Universities

3.3.1 Sensitive to the deluge of petitions, intelligence reports and public complaints against incidents of academic fraud in the universities in the country it became obvious there was a critical need to assist the sector rescue itself. An international study published by an Australian Researcher can be seen in the following website:

[https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/global\\_corruption\\_report\\_education](https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/global_corruption_report_education),  
173.

3.3.2 ICPC in 2012 commissioned a University System Study and Review (USSR) with the following clear objectives:

- a) To establish the veracity of the various intelligence reports, petitions, complaints and public comments and claims against the University system.
- b) To examine the practices, systems and procedures of the Universities and ascertain which of them aid, or facilitate fraud and/or corruption.
- c) To examine the records keeping and retrieval system in order to ascertain compliance with best practices.

3.3.3 The Study was participatory as the respondent pilot universities, Academics, Consultants from the Nigerian Universities Commission and ICPC system study and review experts took active part in the exercise.

<http://unn.edu.ng/news/icpc-study-team-visits-unn>

### 3.4 Some Positive Outcomes of USSR

Some outcomes were immediately used to satisfactorily resolve some corruption-prone issues by issuing Compliance or Abatement Notices.

Although the USSR was essentially a fact-finding and problems-solving one some issues emanating from the study required criminal investigations and have resulted in ongoing prosecutions and punitive actions. Other outcomes are classified below:

- 1) The Universities have voluntarily begun the resolution of some identified corruption-prone processes and have invited ICPC to intervene in others that need further investigation or enforcement. ICPC has directed all the Universities to come up with 5-year Integrity Plans to suit their purposes.
- 2) The various Anti-corruption & Transparency Units (ACTUs) in the Universities now organise seminars for university personnel in respect of acceptable codes of conduct in line with the provisions of the **Code of Conduct and Tribunal Act 1999**.
- 3) The Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) has reviewed some of its processes in order to aid the early detection and resolution of accreditation processes in the University system.
- 4) Students have utilised the opportunities of this System study to have direct contact with ICPC and air their grievances through email and toll-free lines. The ICPC contacts their institutions and follows up on action where necessary.

- 5) The Federal Minister of Finance in 2015 set up an Inter-ministerial Committee to review the funding of the overhead expenditure of Universities based on actual needs to remove “self-help processes” which were not ethical.
- 6) The USSR recommendations have led to the evolution of new partnerships between Agencies of Government involved only in education sector and an anti-corruption enforcement/prosecution Agencies like ICPC.
- 7) Some Institutions have come up with codes for best practices. Currently ICPC has recognised and applauded the following initiatives and recommended them to others for adaptation and implementation:
  - ✓ **Sexual Harassment Policy and Gender Mainstreaming Policy** designed and applicable in the University of Ibadan since 2012 ([www.ui.edu.ng/content/gender-mainstreaming-office](http://www.ui.edu.ng/content/gender-mainstreaming-office) and
  - ✓ **Code of Ethics Guide** developed by the Anti-corruption and Transparency Unit of the University of Ilorin and launched on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 by the ICPC Chairman See [http://issuu.com/unilorinbulletin/docs/5th\\_august\\_web\\_edition\\_1](http://issuu.com/unilorinbulletin/docs/5th_august_web_edition_1)

#### 3.4.2 Enforcement/Prosecution Outcome of USSR

- 1) For several years running the National Universities Commission (NUC) publishes in its weekly bulletin a list of about 65 illegal degree-awarding universities operating within Nigeria or in spurious affiliations with

institutions outside Nigeria. See <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/08/see-list-of-illegal-universities-in-nigeria-has-declared-by-nuc/>

- 2) In May of 2013 the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission in partnership with the NUC carried out a nation-wide operation and shut



down twenty-six of such unregistered or illegal degree-awarding Mills. It also commenced the arrest and prosecution of their proprietors.

See the following:

[icpc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/.../USSR-General-REPORT-November-23-B.pdf](http://icpc.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/.../USSR-General-REPORT-November-23-B.pdf)

[thestreetjournal.org/2013/05/icpcnuc-crackdown-on-illegal-universities/](http://thestreetjournal.org/2013/05/icpcnuc-crackdown-on-illegal-universities/)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/07/shut-illegal-varsities-icpc-to-reopen-four/>

[naijagists.com/nuc-icpc-shut-down-67-illegal-universities-in-nigeria-arrest-operators/](http://naijagists.com/nuc-icpc-shut-down-67-illegal-universities-in-nigeria-arrest-operators/)

- 3) The monitoring exercise has become a permanent feature in order to deter any re-emergence of such institutions and has restored sanity into the sector.

### 3.5 National Conference on Ethics, Transparency and Sustainable Development for the Tertiary Education Sector

3.5.1 A major outcome of the University System Study Review highlighted the fact that some tertiary institutions could not access funds for capital and staff development due to the stiff conditions of drawing down available from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). TETFund is an educational fund set up by the law to collect special education taxes from companies to support the funding of tertiary education in public sector Federal and State tertiary institutions.

3.5.2 ICPC in 2014 collaborated with TETFund and held a two-day conference in 2014 with the theme “Transparency, Accountability and Ethical Values in



Tertiary Institutions for Sustainable Development” for the Chief Executives and Principal Officers of all public and private tertiary institutions to: (a) identify challenges in the management and funding of Tertiary Institutions

in Nigeria, (b) corruption in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions, global best practices in the management of tertiary Institutions, (c) ethics and compliance in public procurement, and (d) transparency, accountability and ethical values in the management of Nigerian tertiary institutions.

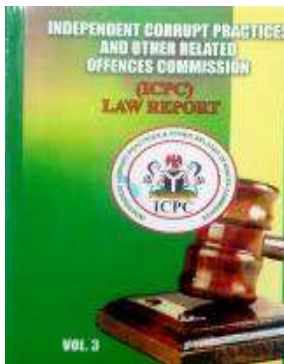
3.5.3 The outcome was beneficial to all Stakeholders as it immediately led to the simplification of processes and release of huge tied-up funds for capital development by tertiary institutions.

### 3.6 Nigerian Youth Use Social Media To Fight Corruption

Social media as an anti-corruption tool is gaining more acceptance among the youth especially on university campuses as more video-clips catching public officers in acts of corruption have been uploaded to YouTube and popular applications like WhatsApp. See the following web links:

<http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-policeman-caught-extorting-money-camera-sacked-121222549.html> and <http://www.nairaland.com/1404231/police-woman-caught-video-demanding-n100>

## 4.0 ICPC LAW REPORTS



ICPC launched its maiden Law Reports on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2013 and Vol. 4 is soon to be released. These Law Reports contain some decided cases related to corruption infractions and include those in the education sector.

## 5.0 POST-TERTIARY EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS

### 5.1 National Youth Service Corp Scheme

5.1.1 The National Youth Service Corp Scheme (NYSC) is a one-year compulsory enlistment of young graduates from tertiary institutions under the age of thirty to serve in this quasi-military programme.



5.1.2 A major initiative by ICPC since 2003 is to target NYSC members as anti-corruption crusaders and both ICPC and EFCC deliver sensitization lectures at all Orientation Camp across the nation. Formation of anti-corruption Community Development Scheme (CDS) clubs of the NYSC is meant to act as a follow-up to University-based interventions before these graduates get into the labour market with good value mindset.



## 5.2 Anglophone West Africa Youth Integrity Camp

5.2.1 In 2014 sixty-seven young people from five West African countries were camped and equipped with skills by ICPC in collaboration with UNDP for a vibrant engagement in the anti-corruption domain.



5.2.2 Some of the participants have set up thriving anti-corruption initiatives which are being funded by the UNDP.



### 5.3 Anti-corruption Academies

5.3.1 ICPC and the EFCC have established anti-corruption academies to address different specialties. The Anti-corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN) which is the training arm of ICPC was upgraded in October 2014 to provide training in anti-corruption for its staff and other interested bodies and



organizations. The Academy serves as a reference point in IT-based trainings and has benefitted from several donor technical assistance and is able to receive and disseminate web-based conferencing interactions from anywhere in the world.



5.3.1 ACAN has hosted a number of trainings for professional bodies like Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and it is set to train ECOWAS countries on Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA).

5.3.2 Following the successful development of anti-corruption curricula by the UNODC and supply of equipment and other technical assistance from the



European Union, ACAN is set to award certificate and post-graduate Certificates in Anti-corruption Studies. Diploma and Masters Degree Courses are in the pipeline in partnership with existing universities.

#### 5.4 National Conference On Youth Against Corruption

5.4.1 ICPC organised a National Conference on Youth against Corruption following the feedback received during consultations with youth held across the six geo-political zones of the country.

5.4.2 The Conference held from 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 at Abuja and the



Conference theme was “*Mobilizing the Nigerian Youth against Corruption (NYaC)*”. It was declared open by the President to underscore its importance.

5.4.3 The purpose was to create a platform for youths all over Nigeria to come together for the purpose of considering their perspectives on corruption as well as discussing how they can be positively engaged in the fight against corruption.

5.4.4 It also sought to engage with them on tackling corruption in those areas particularly associated with youth such as cybercrime and other digital corruption with a view to exposing the dangers and redirect them to positive purposes.

## 6.0 REFLECTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The intervention by Anti-corruption Agencies, most especially the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), has brought immense value to both sectors of anti-corruption and education. Some of these are listed below:

- (1) Tackling Systemic corruption through a system study and review is more sustainable and can lead to production of Standard Operating Manuals which in most cases is lacking.
- (2) Promotion of inter–agency collaboration and synergies using pooled resources for greater effectiveness by reducing or eliminating corruption-prone processes.
- (3) Acceptance and willingness to give information highest during system studies and collaboration than through investigation modes because of fear of prosecution.
- (4) Collaboration with the UNDP who funded an eight-week professional **Corruption Risk Assessors Certification** with the UNDP Virtual School.
- (5) Adoption by some universities of the UNODC **ACAD Initiative** curriculum for the teaching of anti-corruption as a structured course in their universities.
- (6) More stakeholders bought into the process and gave useful tips whereas they would not have been part of the investigation mode.
- (7) System Study Results have been employed by many Ministries, Departments and Agencies of governments to develop and design future

Strategic Action Plans and the review of such organizations in plugging corruption loopholes.

- (8) The Anti-corruption intervention in the Education Sector had, apart from helping to solve problems in that sector, has thrown up new professional specializations like Corruption Risk Assessors which never existed before. They can carry out due diligence on potential businesses and also double effectively as Ethics and Compliance Officers for government, local and international businesses.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, there is need to further strengthen the Anti-Corruption Community at national and international levels using the structured and resourceful nature of the education sector. We have as a matter of urgency to address the more invidious threats to achieving societal wellbeing by blocking persons who abuse their offices and appropriate public goods for private gains. It is not an understatement to claim that some of the best arsenal for sustaining the current and future fight against corruption reside in the education sector.