

## **THREE THINGS THE BUHARI ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA**

### **1. The Establishment of Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption;**

The Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC) was established in August 2015, with the mandate to promote the reform agenda of the government on the anti-corruption effort, and to advise the present administration in the prosecution of the war against corruption and the implementation of required reforms in Nigeria's criminal justice system.

#### **Highlights of major achievements of PACAC;**

- PACAC initiated the whistle blower policy of the Federal Government.
- It has empowered Judges and Prosecutors to operate effectively in carrying out their responsibilities through Workshops on the new Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.
- It helped anti-corruption agencies devise clearer strategies for obtaining forfeiture of assets suspected to have been acquired fraudulently, mainly from State Coiffers, before prosecuting suspected culprits. Part of this work has involved painstakingly reviewing existing Laws (like the Money Laundering Act, 2004, the EFCC Act, 2004 and the ICPC Act, 2000), to identify and highlight sections directly conferring powers of forfeiture on Nigeria's anticorruption agencies. This advocacy has led to a significant increase in the use of Non-Conviction Based Asset Forfeiture Mechanisms by anti-corruption agencies;
- It Produced manuals, protocols and Standard Operating Procedures to assist ACAs in their work. These include the Corruption Case Management Manual; the Plea Bargaining Manual; Sentencing Guidelines in High Profile Cases; the Framework for the Management of Recovered Stolen Assets, Asset Recovery Strategy Document, Corruption Case Management Manual; Framework for the Management of Recovered Stolen Assets; etc.

### **2. Establishment of the Presidential Initiative on Continuous Audit (PICA):**

PICA was set up by the Buhari Administration to strengthen controls over Government finances through a continuous internal audit process across all

Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), particularly in respect of payroll. Through the activities of PICA, more than 54,000 fraudulent payroll entries have been identified and removed, with payroll savings of N200 billion per annum.

3. **Signing into law the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill, 2019:**

President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019 signed into law The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill, following passage by the National Assembly. The Act facilitates the identification, tracing, freezing, restraining, recovery, forfeiture and confiscation of proceeds, property and other instrumentalities of crime, as well as the prosecution of offenders in criminal cases regardless of where in the world they might be. Nigeria has signed Agreements and MOUs with various countries to boost international cooperation for the investigation, tracking, freezing and return of stolen assets.