

RE: CORRUPTION IS BACK
2017 BUDGET IS THE BIGGEST FRAUD IN NIGERIAN HISTORY
WHEN INCOMPETENCE IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER TO
CORRUPTION.

The attention of the Budget Office of the Federation has been drawn to a post on the social media by one Dr. Aliyu U. Tilde with the caption; “ **Corruption is back; 2017 Budget is the biggest fraud in Nigerian history when incompetence is the younger brother to corruption**”.

Ordinarily, we would not have responded to post on social media because such medium has more often than not been used by unscrupulous elements to peddle falsehood and mischief. However, in view of the impact of the social media it has become imperative to set the records straight by responding as follows;

ALLEGATION No 1

Dr. Tilde posted that, “I had written earlier about the absence of the Education Budget on the website of the Budget Office, yet there is a link to the Education budget but click on it, it takes you to the Defense Budget, so in effect the education budget is missing”.

Our Response

The Budget Office of the Federation has painstakingly checked its website particularly the Education Sector Budget and discovered that the allegation that the Education Sector Budget is “missing” is false. The Appropriation Bill is online on the Budget Office website with the details of the Main Ministry, agencies, tertiary institutions and Federal Government Colleges.

ALLEGATION No 2

Dr. Tilde also wrote that, “Federal Government College Garki has a cost **N400,237** repeated 20 times. 20times! Local transport, books, security, maintenance etc all the same cost for **N400,237**”

Our Response

Having perused the 2017 Appropriation Bill for the education sector and the detailed budgetary provision for Federal Government College Garki, it was again discovered that the allegation is unfounded. There is no repetition of a cost of “**N400,237**”. Indeed there is no such cost in the budget details of Federal Government College Garki.

ALLEGATION No 3

According to Dr. Tilde, “Federal Government College Ijanikin has **N350,362** repeated 12 times, how can newspapers, cleaning, legal, sporting etc etc etc all cost the same ”

Our Response

The allegation that the Federal Government College Ijanikin has **N350,362** repeated 12 times is an inexactitude There is no such cost repeated in the budget of the college.

ALLEGATION No 4

Dr. Tilde also wrote that, “Federal Government College Iket Nise has **N1,278,682** repeated 8times, How? Water, drugs, training..... all cost exactly **N1,278,682?**”

Our Response

The allegation that the Federal Government College Iket Nise has **N1,278,682** repeated 8 times is false. There is no such figure in the detailed budget of the college.

ALLEGATION No 5

“ The ministry with the highest allocation, the behemoth Ministry of Works, Housing and Power has a line item repeated 7 times i.e Generation of 700 MW from Zungeru Hydropower project is duplicated 6 times!”

Our Response

The seeming duplications were observed during the preparation of the 2017 Budget but the Ministry explained that each item represents a different aspect of the project which needs to be stated differently for clarity sake as follows:

- (1) Generation of 700mw from Zungeru
- (2) Generation of 700mw from Zungeru HPP (Infrastructure)
- (3) Generation of 700mw from Zungeru HPP (Basic Amenities)
- (4) Generation of 700mw from Zungeru HPP (Basic Amenities

ALLEGATION NO.6

“The State House Hospital, just one hospital gets more allocation more than all of Nigeria Teaching Hospitals combined.... Let me be very clear, the State House Medical Centre gets a proposed capital appropriation of ₦3.8b, the combined total of the capital vote for ALL teaching hospital in Nigeria is about N3.0b.... no wonder the capital vote is high this year.... Could the equipment being purchased for the State House Hospital not be installed in the National Hospital, so all Nigerian can use it?”

Our Response

It is pertinent to state that the State House Medical Centre has a total Allocation of **₦968,172,203.50** for 2017 out of which the sum of **₦636,441,992.50** is the proposed capital allocation, while the sum of **₦331,730,211.00** is for the Overhead Cost as against the sum of **₦3.8 billion** claimed by the writer.

It is quite erroneous to state that the sum of **₦3.8 billion** was allocated in the proposed 2017 Budget in order to cause confusion and disaffection among the citizenry.

CONCLUSION

On the whole, the allegations posted by Dr. Aliyu U. Tilde are baseless and unfounded. Indeed, such people should be called to book by the Nigerian Security Agencies for misleading the general public on an issue that is very crucial to the Nigerian State.

Furthermore, it is important to state that the allegations were intended to cause confusion and disaffection among the citizenry. However, rather than causing despair amongst Nigerians, such malicious lies and misrepresentations will only strengthen their resolve to support the present Administration in its efforts to take the country to greater height.

***EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT
BUDGET OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION***

7th February, 2017

