



Hon. (Prince) Olu Mafo LL.B (Hons) Lond. BL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX,
THREE-ARMS ZONE,
P.M.B 141 GARKI, ABUJA NIGERIA.

26th February, 2003

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE SENATE PROPOSAL TO
AMEND THE ANTI-CORRUPTION BILL

The proposed amendment to the Act passed by the National Assembly in June 2000 is unnecessary and immoral because essentially the amendment is designed to protect the looters of the nation's treasury and those that constitute themselves into fund administering officers in the National Assembly contrary to the provisions of the constitution and the financial regulations of the Federal Government. It is strange that a PDP controlled National Assembly is seeking to weaken the resolve of the Party and the government to fight corruption in all of its ramifications.

It is pertinent to remind all Nigerians that the drive to amend the Anti-Corruption Act started when the ICPC embarked on the investigation of complaints made against some officers of the National Assembly by aggrieved Nigerians. Rather than use the machinery of the National Assembly to weaken the ICPC, the National Assembly officers against whom petitions are pending should go to the ICPC and defend themselves as a matter of honour and transparency in the management of public funds.

Legislations are not amended at the whims and caprices of law makers. And it is a bad precedent for the National Assembly to embark on sweeping amendment of an Act passed in 2000 simply because its provisions are affecting the personal interest of officers/members of the National Assembly.

It is a common knowledge that corruption had eaten deep into the fabrics of our national life, and in 1999 the PDP and the President committed themselves to fight against corruption in all its ramifications. It is embarrassing for a PDP control legislature to be fighting to destroy the only instrument which has given Nigeria enormous respect among the comity of nations.

I urge the distinguished senators to return to the rule of law and to believe that by their oath of office they are subject to the laws of Nigeria either inherited or passed by the present National Assembly. Like the President said, if we are to sustain the development of our country and protect our integrity as a nation, the ICPC law must be strengthened by the National Assembly and not weakened. The alternative is legislative anarchy and abuse of power which I believe this National Assembly will avoid like plague.

It is in the national interest to allow the distinguished, retired President of the Court of Appeal to continue with his onerous assignment, and it is my view that the Chairman of the ICPC is a man of honour and outstanding transparency. Nothing should be done by the National Assembly to undermine the effectiveness of the ICPC. We should err on the side of caution and avoid legislative tyranny in the interest of ^{the} entire nation.



HON. PRINCE OLU MAFO.
Representing Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency.