

July 5, 2007

Dear President Umaru Yar'Adua,

SHOW COMMITMENT TO CORRUPTION – SUPPORT MR. NUHU RIBADU – THE EFCC CHAIRMAN

This is our second letter to you. We are highly gratified that the centerpiece of our last letter – the declaration of your personal assets – has been granted, and we commend you for your act of courage.

We understand some time is required for you to reach out while simultaneously settling into the business of governance, given the monumental needs of our country. In spite of this, the Citizens for Nigeria and our affiliates all around the world are deeply concerned about the single most important requirement for nation building in our country - the fight against corruption.

It is for this reason we find it imperative to send this letter for your urgent consideration, to reaffirm our strong conviction in the fight against corruption and the leading role so far played by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), headed by Mr. Nuhu Ribadu.

The credibility of the Nigerian government in the international arena has been boosted in no small way by the hard work and selfless service by the likes of Mr. Nuhu Ribadu. We therefore request that Mr. Nuhu Ribadu, who is locally and internationally respected, be given all the support and tools he needs by your government to continue his reputed battle against corruption. Progress has been made, and further progress is possible.

We are aware of the intense mobilization among the political elite, the very group that is responsible for most of the corruption in our nation, to replace Mr. Ribadu with a less formidable anti-corruption czar. This is a disingenuous move your administration cannot afford to entertain. You must appreciate the flood of hope that came with your asset declaration, and must continue in the same path. Most Nigerians see Mr. Ribadu as a strong force against corruption, and want his role preserved.

For these reasons, we strongly believe that Mr. Nuhu Ribadu's abrupt replacement will do irreparable damage to the fight against corruption.

Make no mistake that the fight against corruption will significantly determine the perceived success of your administration. Your decisions regarding corruption will have far reaching ramifications on how Nigeria is perceived locally and around the world.

Some of the ex-governors, your former colleagues, are under investigation on very serious charges of corruption. Your actions regarding the full prosecution of government officials and ex-governors, who have various criminal charges pending, is a litmus test your administration must pass. As responsible

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web: <http://citizensforigeria.com>
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citizens, we will monitor your actions in service to the people you have sworn an oath to serve. Public good must take precedence over all other interests.

We are more interested in supporting your government because we see in you a golden opportunity for Nigeria to turn the corner of progress once and for all. Our support will be solely predicated on the actions you take, especially in the area of corruption, rather than promises. The fight against corruption is your biggest battle because, without a doubt, it has been the most significant reason for our lack of development since independence. The time to convince well-meaning Nigerians that you mean business, and will do well is now.

Mr. President, follow the path of greatness, show commitment against corruption and support Mr. Nuhu Ribadu, the EFCC Chairman.

cc: Nuhu Ribadu, Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).
David Mark, President, Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
Olusegun Obasanjo, former President, the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Chris Tunde Odediran (New Jersey) | Henry Ayo Abimbola (Texas) | Anthony Ub (New York)