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December 22, 2015

The Chairman  
**Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**  
Plot 465 Zambezi Crescent Maitama  
Abuja



Dear Sir,

**PETITION AGAINST THE BAYELSA STATE RESIDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER, MR. BARITOR KPAGIH**

I am Francis Asmakia Ted, a patriotic Bayelsan, committed to free, fair and credible election in quest of improved wellbeing of the people of Bayelsa State. I am a staff of Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Yenagoa. During the December 5, 2015 Governorship Election in Bayelsa State, I served as a Supervisory Presiding Officer.

I am writing this petition to draw the attention of your Commission to a number of facts at my disposal concerning the Bayelsa State Governorship Election. I have already sworn to an affidavit at the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt, stating these facts. The affidavit is self-explanatory, and is attached to this letter.

In the affidavit, I affirmed that Governor Seriake Dickson offered Mr. Kpagih the sum of One Billion Naira only out of which N200 Million has been paid to him.

In *The Guardian Newspaper* of Monday, December 21, 2015 (copy attached), Mr. Kpagih himself confessed in an interview that he was offered money to rig the election in favour of a particular candidate. I wish to state that the candidate in question is Hon. Seriake Dickson, the incumbent Governor of Bayelsa State. Contrary to *The Guardian* publication, Kpagih collected money from Governor Dickson.

Please use your good offices to treat this petition with the seriousness it deserves. If further information is of any use, please feel free to contact me in person or by telephone.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours Sincerely,

**FRANCIS ASMAKIA TED**

**THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA**  
**IN THE PORT HARCOURT JUDICIAL DIVISION**  
**HOLDEN AT PORT HARCOURT**



**AFFIDAVIT OF FACTS**

**I FRANCIS ASMAKIA TED male, 40years old, Adult, Christian, Citizen of Nigeria from Trofani in sagbama LGA of Bayelsa State and residing in Yenagoa Town, do hereby make oath and declare as follows:**

1. That I am a graduate of the university of Ado Ekiti working with Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as a supervisory presiding officer in the Bayelsa State Gubernatorial election of 2015.
2. That I first met **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH** the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of the National Electoral Commission (INEC) at the federal Medical Centre Yenagoa Bayelsa State where I work as a pharmacist. He came in the company of a lady and I assisted him by prescribing some drugs for the lady that accompanied him, this was about a few months before the election.
3. That **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH** the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) invited me to his office and before long I became a regular visitor to his office and consequently, there developed a close relationship and friendship between us. He offered and engaged my services as a supervisory electoral officer with a firm and specific instruction to report directly to him with a mandate to gather all relevant information and raise intelligence reports across the state to assist him in his duties which I carried out diligently.
4. That by the reason of this unfolding scenario, I got close to **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH**, the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Bayelsa State and sequel to the close interaction and personal relationship that ensued between us; I am very conversant with the facts deposed herein.



5. That based on my vast knowledge of the operations of the electoral commission in the three senatorial districts of the state, the said **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH**, Bayelsa State Resident Electoral Commissioner, INEC also frequently sought advice from me on issues regarding the smooth operations of the electoral commission in Bayelsa State even before I was appointed as an SPO in the recent Governorship election in Bayelsa State.
6. That **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH**, informed me in his office and I verily believed him as follows:
  - a. That he was summoned by the Governor of Bayelsa State, Hon. Seriake Dickson to the Government House, Creek Haven Yenagoa, Bayelsa State for a meeting which he attended.
  - b. That the agenda for the said meeting is strictly on areas of possible assistance INEC can render through the office of the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Governor Seriake Dickson to emerge victorious and be reelected in the forthcoming Governorship election in Bayelsa State slated for 5th December, 2015.
  - c. That one Barrister Talford Ongolo who according to him is the Chief of Staff to Governor Seriake Dickson was also present at the said meeting.
  - d. That he told the Bayelsa State Governor Hon. Seriake Dickson in the course of that meeting that due to the nature of his request and its possible implications, he (the Resident Electoral Commissioner), is ready to work in that direction towards his victory and would also go back to the Commission and consult with his close confidant on the best way that can be achieved and revert back to the Governor later.
  - e. That Governor Seriake Dickson offered him a total sum of One Billion Naira (N1Billion) for him and his men to facilitate the Governor's victory at the polls for which a whopping sum of N200,000,000.00(Two Hundred



Million Naira) only, shall be released cash in the first instance as advance for performing the role.

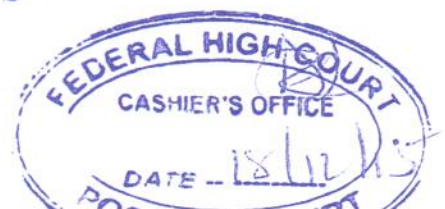
7. That upon **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH** informing me of the outcome of the said meeting and his favorable disposition towards carrying out the electoral fraud towards ensuring victory for Governor Seriake Dickson in the said election, I took steps to ensure that he drops the idea of going on with the said process as same is not in line with the lofty ideals of INEC as an electoral umpire in recent years. This he agreed to and assured me that he has shelved the plot.
8. That surprisingly very late at night on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 at the INEC office, Yenagoa I overheard **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH** instructing two men who are not staff of INEC to drive their vehicle and follow the Governor's representative in one other tinted vehicle to a comfortable zone where they can transfer funds meant for him into that vehicle.
9. That I became curious and went out of the office and saw the two men entered a Toyota Camry, 2007 model car and drove behind a tinted black Jeep; not quite ten minutes thereafter, I suddenly saw the Toyota Camry car with the two men inside returned back to the office.
10. That I saw the two men transferring three bags (Ghana Must Go bags) which I know were loaded with money into **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH's** car and went straight to his office.
11. That **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH** came out of his office and walked towards his car; I followed him immediately at close range and watched the whole scenario and when I saw him open his car boot, I surfaced and saw them counting the money with the Resident electoral commissioner confirming the money to be **N200,000,000.00 (Two hundred million Naira)** only.
12. That I know as of fact from his statement that it was Governor Seriake Dickson that brought the said

N200Million as part payment of their earlier conceived plan to fraudulently manipulate the electoral process to ensure the re-election bid of Governor Seriake Dickson.

13. That it is a fact that even though Ekeremor, Nembe, Ogbia Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State were marred with serious violence and irregularities in the said December 5th Governorship election in Bayelsa State, **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH**, INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner, Bayelsa State, overlooked all those and rather targeted Southern Ijaw Local Government Area and unilaterally declared the results inconclusive all in a bid to justify the huge sum of money he collected from Governor Seriake Dickson to ensure that he emerges victorious in the polls.
14. That I was not part of this unholy electoral fraud contract as I stood my ground and advised **MR. BARITOR KPAGIH** to desist from same which he promised to do only for him to continue in the rather criminal act
15. That I depose to this affidavit in good faith believing same to be true, correct and in accordance with the Oaths Act.

.....  
DEPONENT

SWORN TO at the  
Federal High Court Registry  
Port Harcourt this.....18<sup>th</sup>.....day of.....December.....2015







# I was offered money to rig Bayelsa polls, says INEC chief

From Sam Oluwala, Yenagoa

DEFYING what he considered to be threats to his life, Bayelsa Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Mr. Baritor Kpagih, has re-

• 'My life is under threat' • REC denies personal relationship with Jonathan

vealed that he was offered money by certain interests to skew the state's governorship election in favour

of their candidate. He disclosed that his refusal to be bribed had pitted them against

In an exclusive interview with *The Guardian*, Kpagih said that he had been receiving threats to his life

since the cancellation of the Southern Ijaw Local

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Children show their figurines of Baby Jesus during the traditional benediction of the figurines as part of the Sunday Angelus prayer before Christmas at St Peter's square in Vatican... yesterday. PHOTO: AFP/TIZIANA FABI

**NEWS**  
50 feared killed as rival cult groups fight in Rivers

**NEWS**  
MTN sues NCC, hires seven senior advocates

**Kagame set to accept tenure extension offer**

• President to remain in office till 2034  
• Burundi rejects AU's peacekeeping force

From Adamu Abuh, Kigali

**BUOYED** up by the "wishes" of his people, Rwandan President Paul Kagame will formally declare inter-

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**HEALTH NEWS**  
Scientists closer to slimming pill as restricted meal times boost overeating

...DAY 616

**OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING**

## Nigeria's crude oil falls to \$31.49

By Chijioke Nelson, Roseline Okoro (Lagos) and Collins Olayinka (Abuja)

AS the Federal Government grapples with how to salvage the economy, the continued sliding

• Govt orders special fuel supply • External trade slides by N2.49tr over forex  
• CBN says currency crash due to speculative attacks

of the price of crude oil may require that its effort should be intensified. Indeed, Nigeria's Bonny Light

crude oil hit its lowest level at \$31.49 a barrel at the weekend due to global crude oil glut at the inter-

national market. The price of Organisation of Petrole-

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## NEWS

## Govt orders special fuel supply

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um Exporting Countries (OPEC) basket of 12 crudes stood at \$31.49 a barrel compared with \$32.28 it earlier recorded.

The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Mery (Venezuela).

But to ease the fuel crisis in the country, the Federal Government has directed the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) to embark on renewed special supply intervention measures to ensure a country-wide availability of petroleum products ahead of the Yuletide and beyond.

The NNPC in a statement by the Group General Manager Group Public Affairs Division, Ohi Alegbe, disclosed that the special supply intervention mechanism which entailed the ramping up of additional supply via massive truck-out to guarantee product penetration to the nooks and crannies of the country ended off at the weekend.

The corporation stated that daily fuel truck-out to locations such as Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Enugu, Ibadan and Jos had been increased significantly to enhance free flow of products

across the country. The NNPC stated that it was consolidating its strategic alliance with some major depot owners and oil marketers with strong regional logistic outlay in those areas to ensure maximum infiltration of products especially in the hinterland ahead of the forthcoming Christmas and New Year festivities.

While calling on members of the public to refrain from hoarding, product diversion and panic buying of petrol, the corporation noted that the intervention would help circumvent the challenges posed by the unavailability of pipelines for the transportation of petroleum products.

It noted that product diversion was an economic crime and warned that it would not hesitate to report offenders to the security agencies for prosecution.

Oil prices fell for a third consecutive week, dropping more than 15 per cent since the start of the month, as global supplies continued to grow.

Banks such as Goldman Sachs and Citigroup are among those that have said the oil overhang could push crude prices down to \$20 levels. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc, an American multinational investment banking firm, expects a further drop to \$20 a barrel.

According to the firm, "post-OPEC oil price decline accelerated as the discord between members became more apparent and the lack of a supply response more certain. The meeting confirmed our view that it is not in OPEC's interest to bal-

ance the market in the face of still growing higher-cost production."

Besides, aside from the depreciation of the naira, the lingering foreign exchange (forex) crisis has led to the reduction in volume of imports and exports by N2.49 trillion as at September 2015.

Such a sharp decline in exports and marginal slide in imports also impacted negatively on the country's international trade balance estimated at N303.1 billion quarter-on-quarter, representing a 32 per cent fall.

Already, blame has been put on currency controls introduced to support the reserves, as the 18.8 per cent fall in crude exports in third quarter (Q3) from the second quarter (Q2) records, caused the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to strengthen the measures, which

may have led to the decline.

The apex bank had implemented foreign-exchange restrictions since March to prop up the naira, with investors blaming the policy for exacerbating the nation's economic slump by deterring foreign investment and preventing businesses from buying essential imports.

The total value of Nigeria's trade in the Q3 of 2015 was N4.02 trillion, representing 7.8 per cent, less than the N4.4 trillion recorded in Q2 of 2015.

The plummeted trade record was shown by a decrease of N320.6 billion, representing 12.1 per cent in the value of exports together with a decline of N17.4 billion (one per cent) in the value of imports in comparison with figures of Q2.

According to the National

Bureau of Statistics (NBS), as at September 2015, the value of trade decreased by N2.49 trillion (38.3 per cent), made up of N132.4 billion (73 per cent) and N2.4 trillion (50.3 per cent) fall in imports and exports respectively, when compared with the corresponding period of 2014, put around N6.52 trillion.

Nigeria's imports, estimated at N1.68 trillion in Q3 of 2015, decreased one per cent from the N1.71 trillion in Q2, while a year-on-year decrease by N132.4 billion showed a 7.3 per cent decline from N1.81 trillion in 2014.

A further analysis of the imports' constituents showed that boilers, machinery and appliances accounted for 24 per cent of the total, while mineral products, 15.3 per cent; vehicles, aircraft and parts, 8.8 per

cent; products of the chemical and allied industries, 8.6 per cent; and base metals and articles took 8.4 per cent.

However, industrial supplies ranked first with N470.3 billion, representing 27.9 per cent of total imports, followed by capital goods and parts with N398.7 billion (23.6 per cent); and food and beverage, N322.8 billion (19.1 per cent).

The imports ranked from the highest, were from China, United States, Belgium, Netherlands and India, while in the order of continents, Asia came first, followed by Europe and the Americas.

However, only N65.4 billion worth of items were transacted among African

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Barrister Olumide Braithwaite (left); Mr. Oluyele Braithwaite, Mrs. Ebun-Oluwa Adeosun; Dr. Omowunmi Braithwaite, Jumoke Braithwaite, Dr. Grace Braithwaite and celebrant, Dr. Tunji Braithwaite during the special thanksgiving by the Braithwaite family at St. Paul Church, Breadfruit, Lagos... yesterday.

## REC denies personal relationship with Jonathan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council poll results. Also, he denied a personal relationship with former President Goodluck Jonathan, noting that both of them were not in the Nigeria Customs at the same time.

The Bayelsa REC said that election should not be seen as a do-or-die affair, but rather, as a call to service. He told *The Guardian*: "Some people tried to bribe me to help them win the governorship election and this itself was a misconception by these individuals. This is because there is no way I can help anybody win an election. Mine was to oversee the process. I can't falsify results, because they only come to the head office, af-

ter they have been collated at all other levels. I only stay in the situation room and oversee collation."

He said those who had approached him to swing the election in their favour were now persecuting him and spreading all sorts of false stories about him.

"I believe it was those who had tried to bribe me before to help them rig the election that are now behind all sorts of stories, being defamed around about me. My refusal had infuriated them and they started by saying I was missing and that I have gone underground and all sorts of stories. People should not take election as a do-or-die affair. I told them, I can't help them to rig the election and

that they should use the money they wanted to bribe me with to go to the grassroots and canvass for the people's votes," he said.

On the threats to his life, Kpaghi said they started after the election, but that they had become more frequent in the last few days.

"Somebody called me on the phone and threatened me and since then, I have been receiving all sorts of threats. These have come through text messages and others. Just on Thursday, two strange people visited my house in Yenagoa. They refused to identify themselves but told my people that they had an appointment with me and I knew for a fact that I didn't have any appointment with any-

body that day.

"Quite a number of people who are my friends have advised me to avoid all the hassles and stay away from Bayelsa State because my safety cannot be guaranteed. But I have a job to do and I am going to see it through," he said.

On his alleged relationship with Jonathan, the Ogoni-born electoral boss said he joined the Customs Service a few years after Jonathan had left the service and that at no time were they ever course mates.

He wondered why people would want to malign his character, just because he had decided to "fly straight."

He advised politicians, "to concentrate on what is ex-

pected to be done within the framework of the law and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) guidelines for elections.

"I joined the customs service as a graduate, while Dr. Jonathan joined as a School Certificate holder. He left the service around 1977 to go to the university. I also went to the university in the same year and after graduation, I joined the service, while he did not return to the service.

"The first time I met him was when he was the vice president and we never had any close relationship. I was retired prematurely, seven years before the mandatory year. If he was my close friend and he was

the vice president, wouldn't he have helped me to stay in service?" he queried.

On the violence that greeted the governorship polls, Kpaghi said that people should look into the root causes of the violent clashes, instead of looking for scapegoats to heap blame on.

"What keeps baffling me is the fact that up till now, nobody is talking about the arms and ammunition that were used to wreak violence on the people. Nobody is looking into how the arms got into Southern Ijaw and who brought them into the area. They were freely deployed into the communities and nobody is talking about those things," he added.