The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Anti-Corruption and Academy of Nigeria (ACAN) held a three-day sensitization workshop on “Achieving Zero-tolerance for Corruption in the Workplace.” The workshop provided staff members with comprehensive education on various types of corruption, their potential consequences, and necessary safeguards to prevent corruption in the workplace.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, expressed appreciation to the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN) and its parent organization, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offenses Commission (ICPC). He urged all staff to make the most of the workshop and promised that the Board would continue to support anti-corruption initiatives.

Professor Bolaji Owasanoye, Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC), commended the NCDMB’s commitment to maintaining a corruption-free environment in the workplace and reiterated the Commission’s commitment and efforts in combating corruption.

The sub-themes explored at the sensitization session included “Addressing Workplace Corruption: The Role of NCDMB-ACTU,” “Eradication of Corruption in the Workplace: A Behavioral Change approach,” “An Analysis of National Integrity Laws and their Impact on Organizational Integrity,” and “Tactics for Attaining a Zero-Tolerance Policy towards Corruption in the Workplace.” The speakers discussed lesser-known manifestations of corruption, such as subordinates offering presents to their superiors and public employees declining gifts from those who have received services.

In his presentation Professor Babawale emphasized the country’s dilemma with corruption persisting in all spheres despite numerous laws. He suggested a new approach targeting social norms, unspoken principles, and collective beliefs, emphasizing morals and integrity. He emphasized the importance of public officials refraining from engaging in “favor reciprocation” and fostering a cultural environment where corruption is seen as normal or acceptable. He said, rather than adore individuals whose sources of wealth were questionable, society should emphasize norms that care about morals and integrity.

By Fateemah Mohammed
The presenter gave the rundown on the birth of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) and the reason for her creation. ACTU is a programme established by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) with the objective of enhancing service delivery, reducing discretionary practices, and combating corruption. In 2001, via a circular issued by the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, the ICPC established the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) in various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). To date, a total of 430 (ACTUs) have been officially established in various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) following the communication of approval by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).

THE ROLE OF ACTU's

▪ Preliminary investigation
▪ Monitor and oversee compliance
▪ System study and review/ corruption risk assessment
▪ Monitoring budget implementation
▪ Observers on relevant committees: ACTU members shall observe the proceedings of relevant Committees.
▪ Coordination of the deployment of the ethics and integrity compliance score card.
▪ Conduct in-house training/ sensitization for the staff of its organization through workshops, seminars and any method appropriate.

Fraud awareness

Welcome to the second edition of the Incorruptible. On the 8th to 10th of August, 2023, the NCDMB-ACTU organized the maiden edition of a sensitization workshop for the entire NCDMB staff. The workshop was delivered by the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN). We wish to commend the Executive Secretary for his unwavering support to NCDMB ACTU and for approving the workshop. We also commend the entire staff for their diligent physical and online participation.

As clearly shown in during the workshop, fraud awareness is not just a responsibility; it’s a necessity for our Board’s survival and growth. By understanding the risks, committing to ethical behavior, and actively participating in fraud prevention, we can collectively protect our Board, our colleagues, and our future.

Let’s make it our mission to be vigilant, stay informed, and work together to ensure that fraud finds no place within our organization. Thank you for your dedication to this important cause.
COMMISSIONING OF NCDMB-ACTU OFFICE

The NCDMB’s Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (NCDMB ACTU) office was commissioned by Chairman, NCDMB ACTU, Tunde Adelana and the Provost of the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria, Prof Olatunji Babawale. The commissioning which was done on 8th August 2023 on the sidelines of the Sensitization workshop titled “Achieving Zero Tolerance for corruption in the workplace” organized by NCDMB ACTU for NCDMB staff was witnessed by staff and top management. The office is located on the first floor of the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

According to the NCDMB-ACTU Chairman, the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Office signifies the Board’s dedication to building a corruption free workplace and by extension, a society that is free from the corrosive effects of corruption. He added further that the office will serve as a beacon of hope and a symbol of our determination to foster a culture of honesty, transparency, and accountability within the Board and the larger community.

Professor Babawale praised NCDMB’s commitment to a corruption-free workplace and support for the ICPC’s anti-corruption efforts.

-By Ilu Ozekhome
The Conference emphasized the need for robust whistleblower protection mechanisms and the integration of technology, such as data analytics and AI, to identify and prevent fraudulent activities. Attendees were encouraged to adopt a global perspective on anti-corruption efforts and explore international collaboration opportunities. Ethical corporate culture and compliance programs were emphasized as critical tools for mitigating corruption risks. The conference provided a valuable platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices in the ongoing fight against corruption and fraud. - Ilu Ozekhome

NCDMB ACTU and ICPC attended the 34th ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS (ACFE) Conference in Seattle, Washington, USA. The Anti-Fraud Conference provided a unique platform for experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to convene and discuss critical issues related to corruption prevention, detection, and mitigation. The conference aimed to address a wide range of topics, with primary focus on enhancing transparency, accountability, and ethical practices in both public and private sectors.

Key sessions included a panel discussion on cryptocurrency’s impact on financial markets and its challenges for anti-fraud professionals. Other sessions also discussed corporate compliance and ethics, Government Transparency and Accountability, Whistleblower Protection and Reporting Mechanisms.
MEET THE ACTU MEMBERS
The newly inducted ACTU committee members are:
Mr. Tunde Adelana (Chairman)
Mr. Suleiman Ozimede (Member)
Mrs. Fateemah Mohammed (Member)
Mrs. Seleke – Ere Owoupele (Member)
Dr. Ademola Kaka (Member)
Mr. Ilu Ozekhome (Secretary)

UPCOMING EVENT:
NCDMB Celebration of World Anti-Corruption Day

Collection of Articles
The fight against corruption in the workplace is a collective effort. Any staff who has an interesting article for publication should send to actu.ncdmb@ncdmb.gov.ng.

The receipt of an article from any staff does not guarantee that it will be published. The articles may be reviewed and revised by Board’s and NCDMB ACTU’s editorial team as deemed necessary. NCDMB ACTU reserves the right to publish a received article or not.

Anti Corruption Quotable Quote
“PEOPLE’S INDIFFERENCE IS THE BEST BREEDING GROUND FOR CORRUPTION TO GROW” — DELIA FERREIRA, CHAIR OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL.