

# Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL)

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*Name, Nail, Shame and Shun Corrupt Leaders Anywhere, Everywhere*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **RIBADU'S HUMILIATION: A NATIONAL SHAME**

The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders (CACOL) views with utmost surprise the prevention of the former Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Mallam Nuhu Ribadu from anticipating in the graduation ceremony of Senior Executive Course 30 set of the National Institute Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru last Saturday 22 November. It is surprising because Mallam Ribadu neither applied nor begged to go for the course. He was forced to do so by the same Yar'Adua's administration that is now feeling uncomfortable for the punishment the discerning top cop has made the most of. Even when a cross section of Nigerians protested his supposed long study "leave", the administration swore it was a routine training the then referred czar of the most effective and dreaded anti-corruption outfit in Africa, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu must undergo to enhance his performance as the EFCC boss and in his new rank as an Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG).

It is generally disheartening that the present Federal Government and its agencies have turn lying and mischief to state art. They are increasingly proving that it is a mistake Nigerians have made by tolerating its foisting on them by a lying electoral agency. The administration had been moving from telling one lie to the other since its inauguration about 18 months ago. Apart from that of its ascendancy to office fraught with several irregularities, there is the lying about the health condition of its Chief Accounting Officer President Yar'Adua who was said to be hale and hearty even when he was, for most of his first year in office, undergoing a series of medical treatment including surgery for what could be a terminal ailment. Up till now no one has told Nigerians the true state of their president's health. There are several lies about the program that are daily committed by the military Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta. While the people said the JTF men were fighting and killing their civilian competitors in the business of illegal bunkering, the soldiers lie that it is the Niger-Delta trouble makers they were killing. There is the lie about the performance of 2008 budget government sources put it at more than 60% when it is actually performing less than 40% and several other lies to cover up its indiscretion, dereliction and insolence.

We are not saying that the military and para-military forces in Nigeria should not observe their rules, regulations and procedures. Our argument is that such observance should be decorously done with all sense of honesty and responsibility. The humiliation meted out on Nuhu Ribadu in the presence of the world public at Kuru on Saturday is a collective shame to all of us all. If Ribadu had violated any law, there are civilized ways and procedures of making him pay or recompense for it. It is arrant nonsense, unacceptable and inexplicable barbarism that a student who successfully went through a course of study was not allowed to graduate. If Ribadu was not qualified to undergo the course why did the authorities coerced him to go through the rigours the course demanded? If he was found incompetent for the course why was he not advised to withdraw before the end of the course? Definitely, the authorities have something to hide in this case. This is because Mallam Ribadu had been earlier cleared to graduate from the Institute by the authorities of NIPSS that said Nuhu had completed the course and "there was nothing left for

the institute to do than to abide by its (NIPSS) Act in graduating him". Is there somebody somewhere afraid of abiding by the rule of law that set up the NIPSS who wants the Institute managers to violate the Act that recommends that all its successful students should graduate. It is interesting to note that Ribadu's adversaries may not be those who supervised him at Kuru after all. This is evident in the fact that the former Acting Director-General of NIPSS, Dr Yakubu Sankey had refused to ask him to withdraw when he was purportedly demoted from AIG to DCP. And on his graduation Sankey had said that "Ribadu could only be withdrawn if he violated the Institute's rules." This presupposes that Ribadu did not violate the Institute rules. The present NIPSS Acting DG, Mr. James Opadiran, also said at a Press Conference, three days to the Kuru show of shame that "the institute was set up under an act and therefore its operations and conduct are determined by that act...my understanding of the legal system is that ***you hold a person innocent until proved guilty beyond reasonable doubts.***"

In this case there are a couple of opportunities existing in courts, and Ribadu provides some, to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Ribadu is "guilty as charged", if he ever had any charges against him. And until all the legitimate ethical, legal and judicial procedures are exhausted, we urge the administration of president Umaru Yar'Adua, whose own claim to power is still a subject of litigation, to save us all from the collective shame and allow Mallam Ribadu have his NIPSS certificate. After all if he is found guilty of any allegation that could have made him unqualified for the award, the certificate could be easily withdrawn.

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