



NIGERIAN JUSTICE BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE



Special Edition
January, 2022



PROSCRIPTION OF BANDITRY

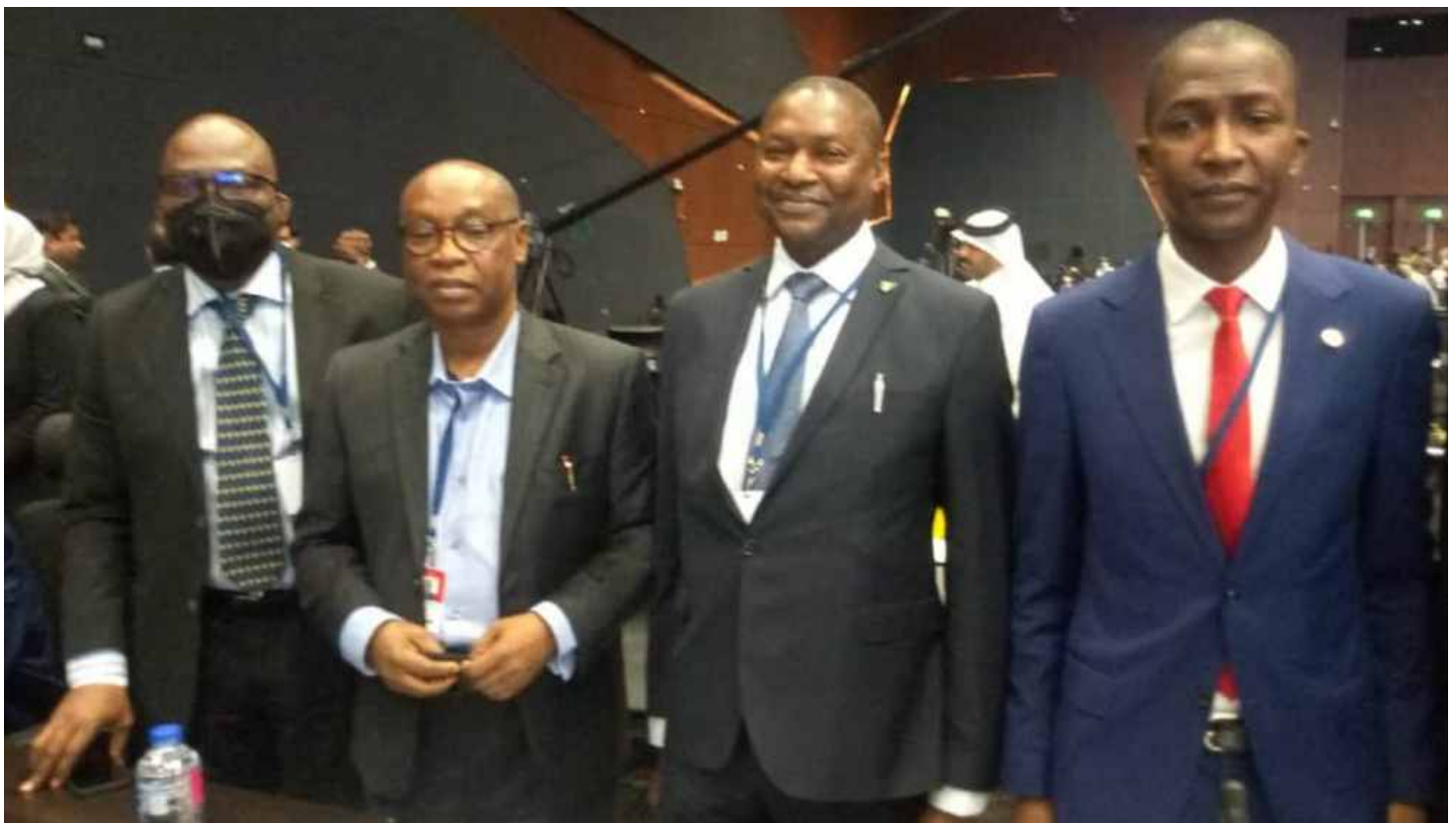


SUPPORTING REFORMS
IN DEFENCE, AFN



SUPPORTS TO END CRISIS
AT LAKE CHAD REGION

Malami's Marvelous Milestones In 2021





Malami's Marvelous Milestones in 2021

By Dr. Umar Jibrilu Gwandu

Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN remains the cynosure of the President Muhammadu Buhari-led Federal Government.

Malami's conspicuous postures, legal acumen and administrative dexterity in the discharge of his statutory responsibilities depict him as a

workaholic and an achiever Minister who works relentless in ensuring the attainment of the cardinal objectives of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

In the year 2021, as always, Malami was preoccupied with public-interest national assignments and international engagements geared toward enhancing the fortunes of Nigeria.



Enumerated below are points of what could be considered as marvelous milestones recorded by the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice in the 2021.

1 PROSCRIPTION OF BANDITRY

As a demonstration of commitment to end banditry and other forms of associated insecurity in the country, the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice filed an application for the proscription of bandits as Terrorists.

The proscription shows the determination of the Federal Government to deal ruthlessly with the bandits and to do things in accordance with the rule of law.



2 HALTING MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORISM AND ILLICIT FINANCING



In a bid to address the challenges of money laundering and terrorism financing, the office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami, SAN facilitated the move by Federal Government of Nigeria has indicated willingness to join membership of the global Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

The FATF monitors 39 member countries to ensure fully and effective implementation of FATF Standards thereby holding nations that do not comply accountable.

3 RETURN OF LOOTS CONNECTED TO THE FAMILY OF JAMES IBORI

Following the signing of Memorandum of Understanding for the repatriation of the Ibori loot on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria by Malami and the British High Commissioner, Catriona Laing, the sum of 4.3million Pound connected to the family of James Ibori were returned to the Federal Government on 10th May, 2021.

The development, according to Malami, was a demonstration of the recognition of reputation Nigeria earns through records of management of recovered stolen Nigerian stolen in the execution of public oriented projects.



4 IDENTIFYING, BLOCKING, PROSECUTING AND HALTING BOKO HARAM FINANCIERS

In addition to the fight against corruption, crushing banditry and combating terrorism, the President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration is also determined and committed to arraign and prosecute anyone found wanting or connected to the sponsorship of Boko Haram Terrorists.

On this note, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN worked assiduously and carried out a thorough and comprehensive investigation to prosecute all the financiers of Boko Haram.

“As per as terrorism funding and financing is concerned, we have succeeded in identifying those that are allegedly responsible for funding same and we are blocking the leakages associated with funding while embarking on aggressive investigation that is indeed impacting positively in terms of the fight against



terrorism” Malami informed journalist during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in September, 2021.



5

RESUMPTION OF NNAMDI KANU'S TRIAL



Through combined efforts of stakeholders the leader of the proscribed terrorists Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, was re-arrested and brought back to Nigeria in June 2021.

Kanu was brought back to face his trial. Mr Kanu and his co-defendant were facing treasonable felony charges at the Federal High Court in Abuja when fled the country in September 2017.

The resumption of the trial has been applauded as another remarkable milestone recorded in the year 2021. The Minister was also informed Nigerians of the atrocities committed by the IPOB when they unleashed mayhem in the country.

6

EXPOSING THE SPONSORS OF SEPARATISTS MOVEMENT

At a Press Conference in October, 2021, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami, SAN revealed that an investigation has discovered a Federal lawmaker and other major sponsor of Yoruba Nation agitator, Sunday Igboho.

Malami said the investigation unravelled how Igboho got monies from 43 bank accounts, across nine banks. The report shows the link between the separatists' agitators and terrorism across the country.



7

ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



In the effort to bring lasting peace at the Lake Chad Region, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN, said Federal Government of Nigeria has vowed to partner in the collaborative efforts to see to an end the multidimensional crises facing the Lake Chad Basin States.

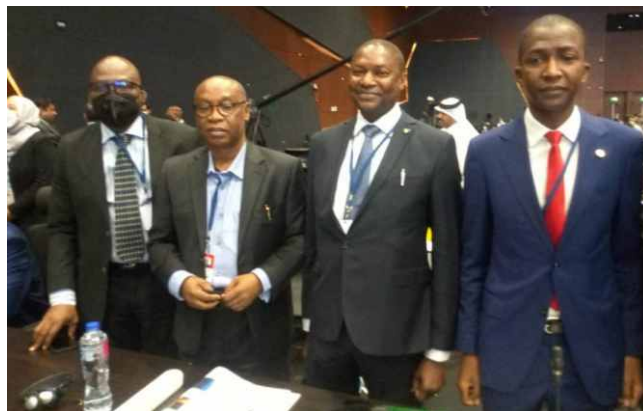
The Minister has been engaging in international cooperation assignments connected to the United Kingdom, United States, Egypt, Cameroon, China, Gambia among others.

8

GLOBAL SHOWCASE OF NIGERIA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION CRUSADE

Speaking at the annual public lecture in New York organized by the Centre for Media and Peace Initiative, New York, United States of America, Malai explained that "various steps have been taken (by the Buhari-led Federal Government) in terms of legislatives frameworks, establishment of institutions and policy measures targeted at combatting corruption, regional corporation and ensuring good governance for the benefit of citizens".

According to him, the outstanding successes recorded in the fight against corruption, especially in the international asset recovery could be a template for other African countries in the fight against corruption.



9 SUPPORTING REFORMS IN DEFENCE, AFN

In an effort to ensure a better Nigeria, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami, SAN pledged enormous support in providing the legal backing for the immediate implementation of reforms strategy for national security architecture. Malami made this known as he received members of the Presidential Implementation Advisory Committee for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Reform Committee on Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Nigeria, adding that the review of the defense and security architecture is crucial and a necessity considering the heightened level of insurgency and other internal and external threats.



10 COMMITMENT TO END IMPUNITY, CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS



Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN, has reassured the Federal Government's unending support, dedication and commitment to end impunity for crimes against Journalists. Malami gave the assurance in his keynote address at "Policy Dialogue on Protection of Journalists in commemoration of the 2021 International Day to end impunity for crimes against Journalists in Nigeria", organized by Federal Ministry of Justice with the support from the Managing Conflict in Nigeria (MCN) program of the British Council Tuesday 2nd November, 2021 held in Abuja.

11 UNWAVERING STANCE TO RECOVER LOOT STASHED ABROAD

Malami pointed out that the Federal Government had identified at least many stolen funds which the government was determined and committed to recover from different countries of the world.

"We are looking to recover further about USD2 billion among others, but then, that does not mean to say that no other associated assets are being pursued in other countries of the world, including Ireland and other countries," he said.



12 QUALITATIVE LEGAL OPINIONS

One of the major responsibilities of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice consist in counseling the State in all legal matters. It has the major role of promoting and enhancing justice for all, the rule of law and good governance.

The year 2021 was a remarkable year in the justice sector in the country. Malami gave sound and qualitative legal opinions to President Muhammadu Buhari, especially in the areas economy, politics, health sector, security, signing of mutual agreements, memoranda of understanding and international cooperation. But for some of his sound legal views on issues, especially, on sensitive matters, the country may have found itself in chaos



13 VIRTUAL COURT SITTING FACILITIES



The Covid 19 pandemic forced many countries around the world to adopt a new way of doing things which were never envisaged before. One of them is the introduction

of virtual court sitting in the country through collaborative efforts with relevant local and international stakeholders. Virtual Court Sitting Facilities, the first of its kind was commissioned in Correctional Centre in Kuje, Abuja, last year by Malami.

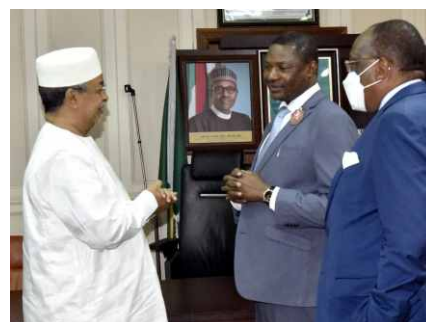
According to Malami, the deployment of a virtual court sitting technology in correctional facilities was aimed at ensuring speedy dispensation of Justice and decongestion of custodial centres in the country.

"It would also eliminate the issue of difficulties in conveying the inmates to court and would further ensure the safety and security of the inmates and law enforcement officers. We are no longer constrained by mobility, space and time in the justice delivery on account of accommodation of the virtual court sitting facilities and deployment of incidental technology," Malami said.

14 SUPPORTS TO END CRISIS AT LAKE CHAD REGION

Another milestone achievement lauded by Nigerians was the determination of Malami to support and address crises at Lake Chad Region as Nigeria vowed to partner in the collaborative efforts to see to the end of the multidimensional crises facing the Lake Chad Basin States.

While receiving a delegation of the United Nations and Lake Chad Basin Commission who were in Nigeria for a high-level political advocacy visit, Malami noted with dismay that judging from the security challenges presently confronting Nigeria and some of the Lake Chad Basin States, several lives have been lost, including the lives of soldiers and millions of dollars of properties have been either vandalised or completely destroyed.



15 SUCCESS IN OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The level of transparency in the sector made the administration of President Mohammadu Buhari top global ranking in Open Government Partnership, OGP.

Nigeria won the global award announced in Seoul, South Korea, at the opening ceremony of the Summit of OGP member countries. Nigeria beat other countries in Africa and the Middle East that are implementing the OGP.

The review tracked and assessed milestones achieved by the Nigerian government in setting up a Beneficial Ownership registry to end anonymous companies in the country, a statement by the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has said.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Federation coordinated the activities of Open Government Partnership.

16 BUILDING GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON ASSETS RECOVERY

The government, through the office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN was able to build Global Consensus on Assets Recovery.

Malami, during the ninth session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), that took place in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, last year, said with support from the 19 countries across different continents of the globe, Nigeria got support in its submitted draft resolution entitled "Enhancing access to and the use of Beneficial Ownership Information to

facilitate the identification, recovery and return of assets", to further highlight the importance of beneficial ownership transparency.

Malami said significant progress has been recorded in the efforts to combat corruption in Nigeria.

"We have continued to make significant progress in our efforts to prevent and combat corruption, block leakages and recover our stolen assets" Malami said.



17 TREATED 18,388 MAILS



A week to new year, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami, SAN has received and treated eighteen thousand three hundred and eighty eight (18,388) mails from January 2nd to 24th December, 2021.

This was made known by Dr. Umar Jibrilu Gwandu, Special Assistant on Media and Public Relations, Office of the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice in a statement issued to newsmen in Abuja on Saturday the 25th day of December, 2021.

According to Dr. Gwandu the number of mails treated by Malami increased this year by 4,661 from last year's mails; 13,772.

A point of interest associated with the volumes of the mails treated is the fact that in addition to the quantum, enormity of the mails received and treated, the opinions, decisions and actions of the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice arising from the mails have translated into major policy impact on the position of Federal Government relating to Justice sector reform, security, economy and the fight against corruption, among others, in the country.

The breakdown showed that In the first quarter, Malami treated a total number of 1,317 from various Ministries, Department and Agencies of Government, 1,687 mails received from law firms, 1,516 mails from Private Individuals while a total number of 391 mails were received from Civil Society Organizations making a total of 4,911 mails treated from January to March 2021.

In the second quarter, according to the statement, several Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government sent 1,336 mails to the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, 416 mails were received from numerous law firms, 1,652 mails from different private individuals and 268 mails from Civil Society organizations totalling to 3,672 mails received from April to June.

Within the third quarter, a total number of 5,113 mails were received 1,596 of which are from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, 1,432 mails from law firms, 1,731 from private individuals and 354 mails received from Civil Society organizations from July to September.

Similarly, no fewer than 4,692 mails were received in the fourth quarter of the year; 1,470 treated mails were received from Government Agencies, 1,496 mails from Law Firms, 1,579 from Private Individuals and 147 mails from Civil Society Organizations.

The total sum of mails received from Government Agencies from January to December 2021 amount to 5,719, while 5,031 mails were received from Law Firms, 6,478 mails from Private Individuals and 1,160 from Civil Society Organizations.

18 ENSURING NIGERIA'S PUBLIC INTEREST PREVAILS

Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN played very crucial roles in protecting Nigeria's public interest. Many governmental institutions attested to the inspiring strive of Malami in ensuring that Nigeria's public interest is always protected in all transactions. This was described as a demonstration of realization of the essence of Governance.

Also in this regards was the inauguration of the Committee to checkmate illegally refined petroleum products recovered around the creeks of Niger Delta.

19 CHAMPIONING JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLES

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Words on the Marble

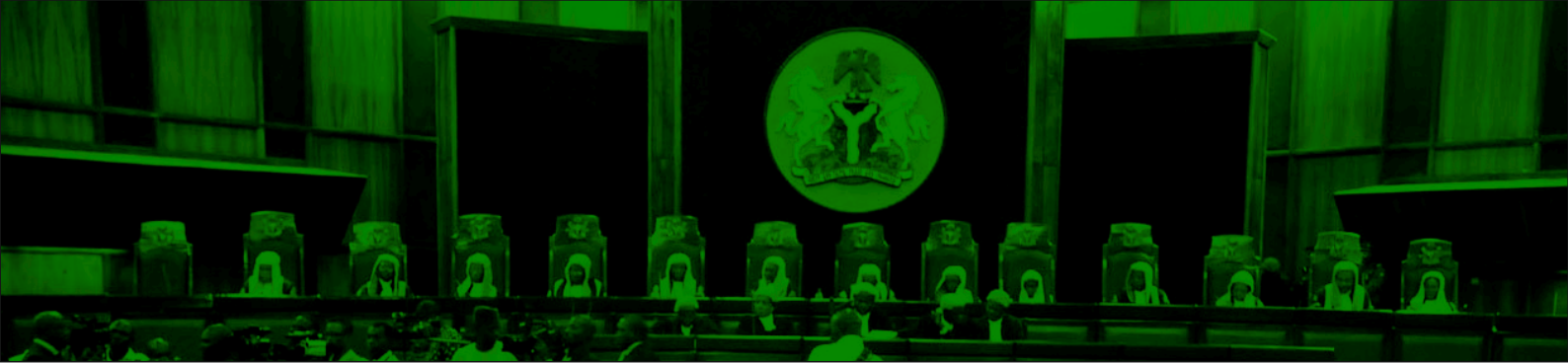
"Our government is not averse to freedom. Freedom is not borderless. Freedom of expression must not be used in such a manner that incites citizens to violence or call for an overthrow of a democratically elected government. There are bounds to freedom within the laws".

Abubakar Malami SAN- on Public interest as basis for measuring freedom

"Federal Government recognizes the crucial role of journalists in any democratic setting. Journalism is next after the three arms of a democratic government which makes it the fourth estate of the realm. Journalists render essential service of the watchdog function as well as holding the government accountable".

Abubakar Malami SAN – Expressing the Government's resolve on freedom of speech





MALAMI GETS 79 AWARDS, HONOURS IN 2021

No fewer than seventy nine organizations and corporate bodies have conferred award of honour for patriotic service, humanitarian intervention and nation building to the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN in the year 2021.

Special Assistant on Media and Public Relations, Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Dr. Umar Jibrilu Gwandu made this known in a statement on Monday.

Dr. Gwandu said the nominations for the awards and honours received are a testimony to Malami's selflessness and relentless commitment to public interest, rule of law and dispassionate approach to dispensation and administration of justice in the country.

A statistical breakdown, on the development, from the office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice indicated that during the first quarter of the year under review 15 organizations sent in their notification for conferment of awards and honours to Malami

While 26 organizations wrote between April to June, 18 organizations wrote letters of notification for the award of honour during third quarter and 20 sent their nomination letters in the fourth quarters of 2021.

The organizations comprised of national and international institutions from Governmental, non-governmental organizations, anti-corruption and forensic investigation bodies, professional associations, student unions, media-based groups and traditional institutions.

In their separate letters, the organizations said they consider Malami for his landmark achievements and successes recorded in carrying out national assignments especially the fight against corruption.

In a letter received on 26th January 2021 and signed by the acting Vice Chancellor of Enugu State University of Science and Technology Professor Charles Eze wrote to applaud the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN for his monumental positive impact in the country. It is consequent upon your transparent integrity, hard work, dedication and total commitment to duty that has impressively moved this country forward, particularly in the areas of law reform, economic and infrastructural development, political and social stability."

The letter added that It is in recognition of your aforesaid enduring selfless services to human, thereof, and as motivating way of encouraging you to do more and also bearing in mind that the only reward for hard work is more work, that the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology has come to an inevitable conclusion to honour you by naming you a befitting physical building structure in the University after your great name which will stand the test of time.

His Royal Kingship, Gidi n'oba, Eze (Amb.) Iheanyichukwu Nwokenna Oba the Great of Ekeoba Ancient Kingdom notified Malami that they have conferred him with "the most revered Chieftaincy title of the land DIKE EJI AGA MBA of Ekeoba Ancient Kingdom".

In addition, Leadership Experience Ambassadors Network in conjunction with Youth Get Involved Movement (YGIM), in a letter jointly signed by the Convener, Mr. Anthony Nwachukwu and Programme Director Gbolahan I. Adebisi notified Malami that he has been nominated for the "Excellent Performance Award in Leadership".

According to the Group, Malami's "nomination and eventual

selection for this award by the executive board of our organization led by Prof. F Folarin, further confirms you as a role model to many Nigerian youths."

APC National Youths Connectivity Network, Stardom Global Television, Intelligentsia International Inc., Accountability Lab, Commonwealth Society of Nigeria, The Parliament Dairy, International Human Rights Commission, Amazing Ability Beauty Pageant, the New York - based Centre for Media and Peace Initiatives, Progressive Councilors Forum and Leadership Experience Ambassadorial Network (LEAN) are among the organization that wrote to honour Malami in 2021.

The traditional institutions that awarded the Attorney General and Minister of Justice include Ikenta-Na-Odinma Peoples Assembly, Oduduwa Development Initiative, and Ohaneze Ndi Igbo Worldwide.

The President of Foreign Investment Network, Dr. Alex Itkin in a letter dated 2nd June, 2021 addressed to the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN noted that their nomination team "took noticed of his activities in Nigerias judicial systems, the reforms he introduced and various judicial decisions that has preserved the sanctity of the democratic system".

Some organisations that sent letters of notifications for award included: International Association of World Peace Advocates, Leaders Without Borders Development Centre, Centre for Citizens with Disabilities, Blueprint Newspapers, Millennium Africa Global Initiative, Peoples Security Monitor, The Messengers of Peace Foundation, The Presidential Diary, Nigerian Hall of Fame, APC Continuity Group, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Coalition of Civil Society Groups, Thinkers Magazine, The Reporters, World Humanitarian aid Support and development Forum, Next Level Achievers Award 2021, Person With Disability Initiative Nigeria.

Also the National Youth for Women Empowerment and Education in Nigeria, Vivianlam Glamour Magazine, Arewa Elected Councillors Forum, North American Graduates Alumni Association Nigeria, Show Yourself Nigeria Reality Television and online Event, Business Day, United Business Women Association of Nigeria and Diaspora (UBWA) and Northern Youth Council of Nigeria, wrote to Malami notifying him of nomination for award.

Others are: The Society of Project Management and Development Professionals international, Office of the Coordinator National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Centre for Ethical Rebirth among Nigerian Youths, Nigeria Patriotic Youth Against Corruption and Transparency Initiative, Foreign Investment Network, Television Nigeria, I Believe in One Nigeria Project, Presidential Support Committee, New National Star, Independent Television and Radio, Igbo Nsukka United Front, Niger Delta APC Youth Vanguard, Chartered Institute of Leadership and Government (USA), Association of Voice-Over Artistes (AVOA) Nigeria, ST. Geoges Ambulance Foundation and Children Accident Prevention Initiative (CAPI).

Chartered Institute of Educational Practitioners UK, Association of Former Councilors and Ward Leaders in Nigeria, Chartered institute of forensics and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria, Nigeria Youth Congress, Lamorde (Mubi)Sport and Tourism Association, The Waves Publishers Limited, ZAAT International, Coalition of Nigerian Youth on Security & Safety Affairs, National Productivity Centre, Nigeria Media Nite-Out, Independent Television & Radio, League of Association, Zaria, The Eagles Focus, Arewa Rice Farmers Association, Save Nigeria Ambassadors, Centre for Intellectual Service on Sokoto Caliphate, Solar Energy of Nigeria, Concern Citizens for Good Leadership, Actors Guild of Nigeria and International Human Rights Commission.