

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consists of a cluster of hexagons. Most hexagons are a bright cyan blue, while a central cluster of three hexagons is a vibrant red. The hexagons are arranged in a honeycomb-like pattern, with some overlapping. The entire graphic is set against a dark grey background.

AGITATION INNOVATION ORCHESTRATION

“Agitation without innovation
means complaints without ways forward,
and innovation without orchestration
means ideas without impact”.
(Stanford Social Innovation Review)



About PLSI

Started in 2016, PLSI is a civic organization working to drive active citizens' participation in public audit to foster leadership accountability, good governance and development of local communities in Nigeria. PLSI employs a variety of technology to increase citizens' interest and active involvement in public audit process and findings through bridging the communication gap between citizens, Office of the Auditor-General, Parliament and the Executive for improved service delivery.

Prior to the emergence of PLSI, Nigeria's public audit space remained closed for citizens' involvement. Audit reports were never made available in simple form to enable citizens to understand and utilize its data to demand accountability from public officials and elected representatives. Several developmental projects across the country were either abandoned or shoddily completed leading to huge loss of monetary value for both government and host communities. Procurement rules and financial regulations were flagrantly disregarded by public officials and contractors. This having continued for

many years led to claims of marginalization and total neglect by several local communities in the country. PLSI saw the need to douse rising youth restiveness and agitations in many parts of the country by bringing young people to get involved in public audit as way to promote fiscal transparency and leadership accountability for improved service delivery which in turn will ensure reduced inequality, eradication of extreme poverty and provision of quality education, healthcare, water and infrastructure.

PLSI in 2017 became a proud member of Open Alliance, a coalition of civil society organizations working on programs that cover transparency

and accountability in Nigeria.

PLSI in the last one year partnered several civil society organizations including BudgIT, SERAP and CODE mainly in the areas of data analysis, civic technology, legal and other technical support. We have also worked very closely with Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, National Assembly and Media to ensure seamless implementation of #OpenAudit project. PLSI continues to deploy sophisticated data mining skillsets to creatively translate public audit data to simple and usable information which empowers citizens to articulate their demands for improved service delivery. Vital to our work is Value-For-Money, a project tracking tool which when fully developed will allow citizens monitor through a dedicated web and mobile platform audited developmental projects in their respective communities. We are currently mobilizing VFM reporters who will

work collaboratively with local communities in tracking, reporting and engaging public officials and elected representatives where necessary to fast track completion of abandoned projects for which payments have been made. PLSI hopes to link audit data with that of budget, procurement and beneficial ownership to entrench transparency and accountability in Nigeria.

Although we funded our activities in the preceding year through voluntary donations by members, we achieved some remarkable progress and we look forward to receiving support from donor organizations who have expressed interest in our work to scale-up and realize even more extraordinary and outstanding results. PLSI which is being run by a team of five (5) people operates from a 25sqm space in #42, Suite B, Kenneth Dike Way, Bodija - Ibadan.



Foreword

AGITATION INNOVATION ORCHESTRATION

Daily for over six years, I was confronted with the reality of how urgent it is to change Nigeria. Change for many of us was a rough idea of the many economic and social problems that require burning attention without concrete steps to addressing them. I wrote several commentaries in countless national news platforms to highlight few of these problems but it appeared my ink wasn't legible enough and my voice too low to hear.

Sometime in 2015, I got on a road trip from Abuja to Ibadan with a very deep sense of frustration. As a young man, I felt every day the effect of a broken system and institutional inefficiency. The quality of education was on a sharp decline, health care services across various communities was in shambles, citizens lack portable water while several infrastructures from power to road were collapsing continually. The need to do something more strategic about this mirage of problems was evident especially knowing how much public resources were being appropriated and paid out annually to address these issues but the thought of "what else need be done that hasn't been done?" kept bubbling up my heart.

Fast forward to October 2016, we began that difficult journey when PLSI was launched in Nigeria's Federal Capital City - Abuja. We

had innovated a new solution to dealing with these socio-economic crises in the country and while we were very aware there's no way we could solve all of Nigeria's problems, we knew it was important to start dealing with the few we could handle - so we do one audit issue at a time. PLSI is no doubt bringing the grievances of majority of Nigerians to the forefront of public awareness, creating actionable solutions to addressing these grievances and coordinating actions across diverse groups to scale these solutions. We ride on the knowledge that "agitation without innovation means complaints without ways forward, and innovation without orchestration means ideas without impact".

(Stanford Social Innovation Review)

PLSI began working in an entirely niche space. A space which hitherto was closed for any civic activity. We began opening the public audit space and started creating safe arena for citizens especially the youth population across gender to engage the system and be involved in how public funds are utilized in Nigeria to create room for efficiency and effectiveness. We were convinced citizens must participate fully in the entire budget cycle, an important part of which is audit to achieve optimal budget performance. Our passion for the work was engorged and our energy so high. We approached Indigo Trust for funding support and even though we failed to secure a grant at the time, we are very grateful for the advice and guidance Indigo gave to us which led us to BudgIT - a civic organization driven to make the Nigerian budget and public data more understandable and accessible across every literacy span. BudgIT indeed provided several supports to scale our work in the last one year.

As PLSI advances its work in a technically cumbersome space, it is important to connect necessary resources and supports required to achieve our objective for a transparent and

accountable society.

The delivery of social services will improve much more when citizens actively participate in public audit process and findings as they do public budgets. Citizens across gender must be willing to use information contained in audit reports to hold leaders accountable for public resources entrusted to them. They must be willing to put pressure on the Parliament through their elected representatives to consider annual audit reports and draw up recommendations for the Executive to block financial leakages and deter public sector corruption. It is only when this is done, will we be able to achieve value for every money spent thereby creating better living conditions for all citizens irrespective of where they are located.

Olusegun Elemo
Executive Director

OUR WORK SO FAR

AUDIT AWARENESS



PLSI in the year 2016/17 carried out quick analysis of 2012, 2013 and 2014 audit reports with special attention on performance audit sections which contained findings of audited developmental projects across various local communities in Nigeria. PLSI visualized 192 abandoned projects worth N195b involving 41 Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government. PLSI narrowed its focus on 12 selected priority projects crunched from 2014 audit report to encourage issues based advocacy.

Within the period under review, PLSI reached an estimated number of 226,000 citizens through our engagement on social media (Twitter and Facebook), radio sessions on Nigeria Info 95.1 FM and Splash 105.5 FM, TV appearance on ITV as well as articles in Leadership Newspaper.

PLSI initiated 5 FOI requests to both the Office of the Auditor General for the Federation and National Assembly to request status update on selected priority projects contained in 2014 audit report. We also advocated for the release of 2015

audit report to enable citizens access and engage with the information contained in it. This report was eventually published on 10th August 2017. PLSI encouraged citizens through different platforms to engage their representatives with a view to ensuring National Assembly consider the newly published 2015 audit report and pass its resolutions to the Executive for implementation. This we believe will give way for the completion of those developmental projects for which payment have been made but abandoned.


PLSI hopes to fully develop in the short-term value-for-money (vfm) – a citizens' centered web and mobile platform to track, report and monitor in real time status of audited developmental projects. This tech platform is projected to interact with other technology initiatives in the budget cycle for data exchange.

COURT Order

After PLSI's FOI request for audit reports from 1999-2015 was denied through a response from the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, we again wrote a joint request with Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) for the same information which again was denied. PLSI and SERAP then approached a Federal High Court in Lagos to compel the Auditor-General to publish the reports. On Friday 26th May 2017, Justice Oluremi Oguntoyinbo gave PLSI and SERAP the permission to apply for judicial review and seek an order of mandamus directing and compelling the Federal Government and the Auditor General of the Federation to publish audited reports for 1999-2015.

AUDIT Access

PLSI carried out quick analysis on 2012-2014 audit reports with special attention on performance audit to determine how much developmental project funds were unaccounted for within the same period. This analysis enabled PLSI prioritize its advocacy issues as the organization could highlight 12 priority projects in 12 local communities that require completion as funds have been paid out to contractors. The quick analysis revealed an estimated N195bn being funds unaccounted for within three annual audits. 41 Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government were involved and 192 developmental and administrative capital projects were captured. Although due to resource constraint, PLSI could only analyze performance audit sections of the reports. We however expect future analysis starting with 2015 audit to be more holistic.



VISUAL REPRESENTATION

After selection of 12 priority projects which mainly was from 2014 audit being the most recent report to build advocacy issues around at the time, PLSI with technical support from BudGIT developed 12 infographics to simplify issues around the priority projects to enable citizens understand more easily these audit findings and consequently engage their elected representatives on the need to consider the report in Parliament and make recommendations to the Executive which should lead to completion of highlighted projects. These infographics were shared on social media (Twitter and Facebook) to generate public discuss and encourage citizens' interest in public audit. We have since restructured our visual design template for 2015 audit to make observations punchier and easier for citizens to understand.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

During 2016/17 period, PLSI leveraged on the platform provided by two (2) radio stations including Splash 105.5 FM and Nigeria Info 99.3 FM, one (1) TV station - Independent Television (ITV Abuja) and Leadership Newspaper to discuss issues around audit findings with special focus on the 12 selected priority projects for the same period. PLSI particularly leveraged on its partnership with Splash 105.5 FM through Awaken the Citizens - a citizens centered radio program which airs last Tuesdays of the month to disseminate audit findings and drive citizens' participation in public audit.



VALUE-FOR-MONEY (VFM) WEBSITE

Although PLSI is still sourcing for funds to develop valueformoneyng.org - a web platform for tracking audited developmental projects across various local communities in Nigeria. This platform will enable citizens to report their concerns in relation to these projects and allow them monitor progress update on all projects in real time. The domain has since been bought and currently awaiting development.

FOI LETTERS & ADVOCACY VISITS

PLSI wrote five (5) FOI letters to Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Chairman Senate Committee on Public Accounts as well as Chairman House Committee on Public Accounts. The organization received two (2) responses to its FOI requests. PLSI also engaged in advocacy visits to the National Assembly and the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation to explore partnership possibilities that will encourage citizens participation in public audit. These visits are beginning to yield positive results as we now hope to co-produce with the audit office a handbook that will explain and simplify role of the Auditor-General to citizens.



MENTORING & COLLABORATION

PLSI continue to receive mentoring support from BudgIT Nigeria. Among other events we participated to pace-up these mentoring opportunities is the “Lagos Creative Communication and Budget Analysis Workshop” aimed at understanding public budget. There were also sessions on the use of infographics, budget and budget process, tracking and monitoring the budget as well as the use of FOI law.

PLSI is also exploring mentoring and collaboration opportunity with Connected Development (CODE) on activating a State Chapter for its Follow The Money project in Oyo state. As a result, our Executive Director, Olusegun Elemo attended its 2017 annual retreat which held at Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi state.

Lagos

Creative Communication
and Budget Analysis
Workshop
by BudgIT



CODE's '17 Annual Retreat



Sealing P L A N S

PLSI has already simplified 2015 performance audit through development of over 70 infographics with support from BudGIT. These visual representation is currently being shared on social media (Twitter and Facebook) to encourage public debate around audit findings and to inspire citizens to engage their representatives to consider the 2015 audit report in Parliament and make recommendations for the Executive to implement. This we hope will lead to improved service delivery especially for developmental projects which impacts directly on citizens.

PLSI also hope to produce summarized version of audit reports using technology tools to simplify and make it interesting for citizens to read and understand. In our target to reach various literacy groups, PLSI will produce print copies and share electronic version on dedicated web platform and social media channels.

PLSI also plan to visit project sites in local communities especially those that continue to suffer marginalization and neglect, sensitize residents on audit findings and provide capacity on how to engage their representatives with available information.

In addition to the above, PLSI is currently designing “face-to-face with Auditor-General” to provide a platform for citizens to physically engage the Auditor-General on issues pertaining to public audit.

SOME 2016/17 OPEN AUDIT ADVOCACY ISSUES

VALUE FOR MONEY CAMPAIGN 2016/2017	VALUE FOR MONEY CAMPAIGN 2016/2017	VALUE FOR MONEY CAMPAIGN 2016/2017	VALUE FOR MONEY CAMPAIGN 2016/2017
<p>Supply and installation of units of 1000kVA Caterpillar Generator</p> <p>University Of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (LPTH) - Rivers State</p> <p>N 217, 964, 946.25</p> <p>Approved Budget of the Hospital for year 2017 showed that only N35,096,598.00 was appropriated for the purchase of generating set as against the contract sum of N217,964,946.25. It was equally observed that this project was not featured at all in the year 2016 budget, while the Hospital engaged in an extra budgetary expenditure of N182,766,350.25 between year 2016 and 2017</p>	<p>Construction of Psychiatric Building</p> <p>University Of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (LPTH) - Rivers State</p> <p>N 245, 555, 074.80</p> <p>A physical inspection on this project showed that the contractor had vacated the project site and work abandoned for more than one year before audit time in 2018. N3,500,000.00 provided for general conditions, preliminaries and preliminaries to trade and released to the contractor was not utilized for that purpose as there were no bill, receipts and invoices to attest to the contractor's claim.</p>	<p>Supply of equipment at the Dental Centre</p> <p>University Of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (LPTH) - Rivers State</p> <p>N 108, 201, 875.00</p> <p>On physical store survey there was no detail of what was supplied by the contractor and the interim Payment Certificates, on the basis of which payments were made, did not disclose the type of equipment that was supplied by the contractor. There were also no Store Receipt Vouchers (SRV) to attest to the supply and identity of equipment said to have been paid for in this contract, and the letter of contract award was not specific on the type and nature of equipment paid for.</p>	<p>Construction of Water Treatment Plant</p> <p>University Of Ibadan Oyo State</p> <p>N 192, 154, 904.00</p> <p>Some of the provisions of the contract totaling N11,700,000.00 were not implemented but was paid for. For instance in the preliminary provision the following items were excluded and paid for as part of mobilization fee: (1) N700,000.00 for desktop computer & printer (2) N8,500,000.00 for pick-up double cabin Hilux (general contract price has always remained between N5.5m to N6m) (3) Spare parts valued at N2,500,000.00</p>

2017/18 VISUALIZATION TEMPLATE

VALUE FOR MONEY CAMPAIGN 2017/2018

PROJECT TITLE

NIGER DELTA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NDBDA)
CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR POWER BOREHOLES
 Location: 14 VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN BAYELSA STATE

CONTRACT SUM **AMOUNT PAID** **UNACCOUNTED**

N228.1m **N228.1m** **N47.2m**

OBSERVATION

Contract was awarded to a company through a letter referenced AD/NDB/DA/DC/No/12/2016 and dated 30th October 2016 with a completion period of 3 months. The DEME for the job had provision for items of measurable nature and items of values that have no correlation with solar powered borehole such as "allow for the institutional strengthening and capacity building throughout the duration of the project", providing for riverine transportation cost for upland localities, "contingencies" and so on to the tune of N228,211,995 which was expended without recourse to estate regulations. Payment for the contract value had been effected via 3 P/Vs Nos 090 of 11/07/2017 and 06 of 14/11/2017. However, a visit to 3 (three) of the sites (Ibejebu and Therani) showed that the total value of work not done at the 2 locations was N47,094,656.26, because the project at Trofani was not executed.

Source: 2018 Audit Report of Federal Government of Nigeria

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

TESTIMONIAL





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