

The Permanent Secretary
Ecological Project Office
Block D, 3rd floor
Federal Secretariat
Phase 2, Abuja.



Dear Dr Aishetu Gogo Ndayako,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF CONTRACTS ON EROSION PROJECTS IN ENUGU, BENUE STATES AND THE FCT AWARDED BY THE ECOLOGICAL PROJECT OFFICE

Ripples Nigeria is a leading independent media outlet based in Lagos. Ripples Nigeria promotes accountability and transparency in government through objective and unbiased investigative reporting and in-depth analysis. The publication's website is www.ripplesnigeria.com.

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Ripples Nigeria in pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011 to request for the details of contracts approved for erosion and flood control projects in Enugu, Benue states and the FCT. Please see below the details of the request for each state.

ENUGU STATE

In 2019, the Ecological Project Office (EPO) tenders board approved and awarded a 3.8 Kilometer erosion control and road improvement project along Enugu Eke-Ogui Eke-Eke Market-Obodo Amankwo-Oma Eke Road Project, in Udi LGA, Enugu State. The contract was awarded to Flab Engineering Services Limited for N429, 878, 805 with Eco Project Services Ltd as consultant. However, the community says the project was diverted to another community that was not listed as beneficiary. I visited the community to corroborate this and also saw the state of the uncompleted projects and how it is affecting residents and their livelihoods.

1. What were the reasons for the diversion of this project from the original location despite the EPO stating in the contract letter that the project is "fixed, firm and non-transferable?" Is the EPO going against its own rules and in defiance of the Public Procurement Act?

2. The community is currently in court with the EPO and insists that the diverted projects must be completed. Any plans by the EPO to return to the site soon and complete the diverted projects?

BENUE STATE

1. A list of all erosion and flood control projects awarded and approved across Benue state between 2018 to date, especially in Markudi and other flood-prone areas in the city, including Wadata, and Idye communities and Gyado village in the city. These details should include project locations, contract sums and amount released to the contractors, project timelines, names and addresses of contractors handling the project and consultants.

2. A list of erosion and flood control projects awarded and approved for Mbakya Community, Gboko West, Gboko LGA between 2018 to date. This particular community has a history of heavy flooding, including one which happened some days before my visit in August 2024 that swept away a young man from the community. His body was found some 300 meters away from his home.

ABUJA - FCT

A list of all erosion and flood control projects awarded and approved across Abuja, especially in Abuja Municipal Area Council, Lugbe, Mpampe and other flood-prone areas in the city between 2018 to date. These details should include project locations, contract sums and amount released to the contractors, project timelines, names and addresses of contractors handling the and consultants.

This request is in line with Section 2(3) and (4) of the Freedom of Information Act 2011 which require all "information relating to the receipt or expenditure of public or other funds of the institution to be widely disseminated and made readily available..."

As an organization, we would appreciate it if the requested information and contract details are made available in hard or soft copy within seven days from the date of receipt of this request as stipulated by the FOI Act.

Sincerely,


Patrick Egwu