UK Returns Stolen Funds To Nigeria

24 April 2009

His Excellency the British High Commissioner presented a series of cheques to His Excellency Foreign Minister Maduekwe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday – the latest assets to be repatriated to Nigeria in the UK’s case against Joyce Oyebanjo, associate of the former Governor of Plateau State, Joshua Dariye.

The return of these assets fulfils the UK’s commitments under Chapter V of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and is the result of continued co-operation with the Nigerian authorities.

The cheques originate from a confiscation order imposed upon Mrs Joyce Oyebanjo in June 2007 following her conviction at Southwark Crown Court in the UK earlier that year. She received 3 years imprisonment for laundering stolen funds attributable to Joshua Dariye’s criminal conduct through her UK bank account. Dariye remains wanted in the UK.

£1.28 million of stolen assets have been returned to Nigeria since 2006. This follows investigations into the financial dealings of Joshua Dariye and the former Governor of Bayelsa State, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha. Some £40 million more may be returned, subject to successful UK court judgements.

Further information

1. The Queen’s Birthday Party (QBP) is an annual social event held to celebrate the official Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The British High Commissioner welcomes guests both to his residence in Abuja and Lagos. The QBP will take place in Lagos on 29 April 2009.

2. A copy of the High Commissioner’s speech and photographs from the event are attached.


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