Police, political parties most corrupt, says research

By Omotola Shafiu

A recent independent research has identified government institutions such as the Nigerian Police, political parties, the legislature and the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) as the most corrupt enterprises in the country. The research also identified corruption as the major barrier to the achievement of desired development goals in the country.

The research, which was conducted by Research and Marketing Services (RMS), a leading market research company in West Africa revealed that most Nigerians strongly agree that the ‘unfairness’ in the face of socio-economic, political and institutional development in the country.

Mr. Adeola Tinubu, chief executive officer (CEO) of the company, who disclosed the result of the research in a statement said: ‘The research found that 84 per cent of the respondents believed that bribery is sometimes used to influence government’s regulatory to favour corporate organisations while 11 per cent thought otherwise.

Mr. Tinubu added that 93 per cent of corporate representatives claimed that their company faces at 8 per cent while 9 per cent are indifferent. He said 95 per cent of the private sector representatives believe bribery has an adverse effect on the nation’s economy.

He stated that 65 per cent of average Nigerians are of the opinion that the lack of CEUs and management teams of top banks by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) recently due to poor risk management systems and protection of bank’s capital. He added that 7 per cent were of the opinion that the action was not justified while 33 per cent are indignant.

Pandaing University, a United States based agricultural research institute says it has set aside $2 million for the production of non-chemical storage facility for crops in the country to curb but prevent food storage poisoning by the use of poisonous chemicals for storage.

Pandaing ensured crops storage in a hermetic high-bagging system with special plastic bags that disallow the penetration of air and limit the arrival of insects that damage the grains.

Dr. Tahiru Abdullayi of IITA, a collaborative partner with the Institute told newsmen in Kano during the presentation of the project that the Institute in cooperation with IITA will train 900 extension agents who will in turn spread the technology to several rural communities.

Abdullayi revealed that about 70,000 PICS bags will be used to demonstrate the efficiency of the new technology in 4,900 villages across the 36 states.

He further hinted that special demonstrations are being conducted for female farmers indicating that a total of 40 women volunteers have been engaged for the exercise.

Abdullayi explained that the program introduced to West Africa region in 2002 is targeted 25,000 rural communities within the next five years, adding that the vision of the project is to ensure that 30 percent of crops produced in the region are stored in non-chemical PICS bags.