

## WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE? **EX-GOVERNORS' PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES**

Some state laws in Nigeria provide for bogus pensions and allowances for former governors and their deputies. These large pensions are paid in addition to the salaries and allowances paid to serving public officials, including ministers and members of the National Assembly, who were once governors.



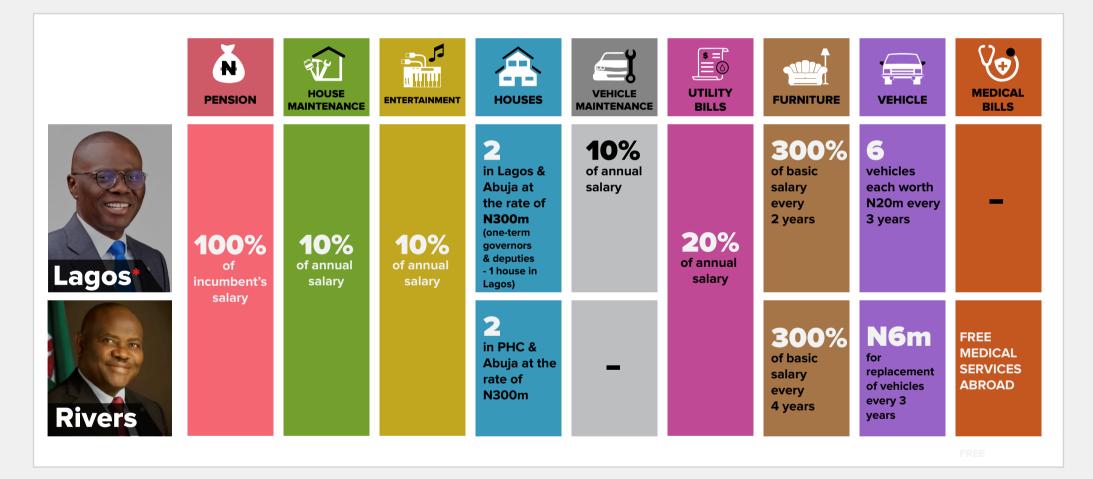
In 2019, Justice Oguntoyinbo of the Federal High Court of Lagos decided in SERAP v AG Federation in suit no. FHC/L/CS/1497/17 and ordered the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) to recover all the monies collected under their respective states' pension laws by the former governors and or their deputies, who are now either ministers or senators because the payments are unconstitutional. The AGF has refused to comply with the judgement. There are laws in 30 of 36 States.



Recently, Governor Samuel Ortom, whose tenure is rounding off in a few weeks proposed a bill which has a provision for the payment of a monthly 'stipend' to former governors, which will be equivalent to 'the salary' of a sitting/incumbent governor.



At the state level, workers are owed 8 months and pensioners are owed 38 months salaries respectively.





\* A bill to repeal the provision allowing former governors in Lagos State to receive pensions and other fringe benefits has passed second reading in the House of Assembly. If it is not passed by May 29th, the process will start again with the new legislators.



Active Citizens, the reward for bad governance should not be flamboyant lifestyles at the expense of workers and pensioners who have given years of their lives to the job but are still being owed salaries.



Shine your Eye! and engage your state lawmakers to demand a review of these laws that allow for bogus allowances. This is one of the numerous ways in which public funds are being misappropriated.



Source: EiE Research as of May 2023



